

Gc
929.2
C83823c
1862816

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

J

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01207 6458



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

<https://archive.org/details/southerncowdensb00cowd>

SOUTHERN COWDENS

By

JOHN B. COWDEN

Author and Christian Unity Evangelist

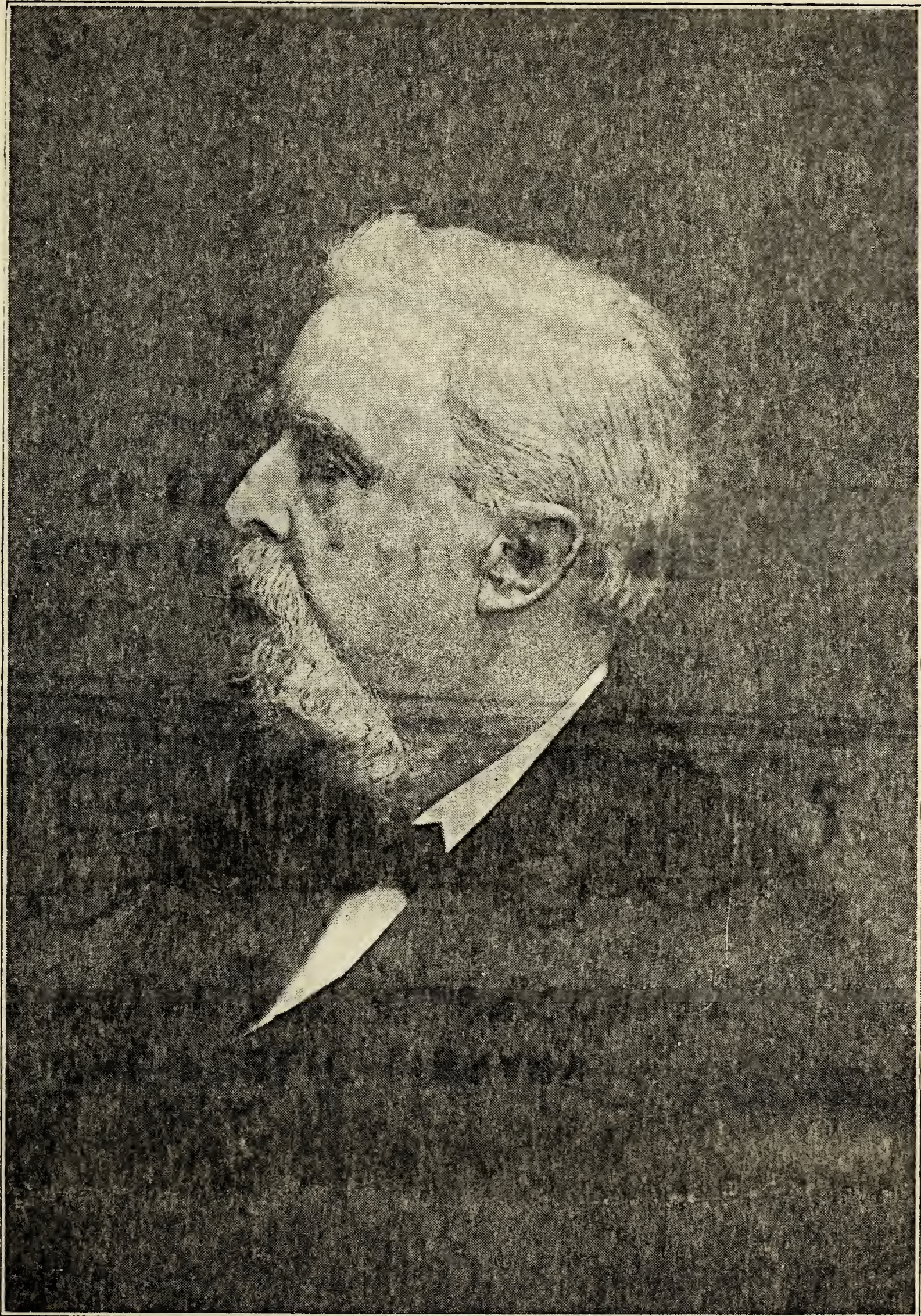
WEST NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



COPYRIGHT, 1933, BY JOHN B. COWDEN, AUTHOR

WEST NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

1862816



Dr. John Cowden (see p. 92)

Recd 7-30-75

DEDICATED TO ALL SOUTHERN COWDENS

THOSE THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE AND

THOSE THAT WILL COME AFTER

Left of compiler May 1934

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, Chapter I	1
ANCIENT HISTORY, Chapter II	4
VIRGINIA AND MISSISSIPPI COWDENS, Chapter III	13
TEXAS COWDENS, Chapter IV	31
ALABAMA AND MISSOURI COWDENS, Chapter V	41
TENNESSEE COWDENS, Chapter VI	63
HUMPHREY NORRIS COWDEN AND DESCENDANTS, Chapter VII	80
DR. JOHN COWDEN AND DESCENDANTS, Chapter VIII	92
UNRELATED INTERESTING CHARACTERS, Chapter IX	104

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Look unto the rock whence ye were hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye were digged," wrote an Old Testament prophet thousands of years ago, which is good advice today for both institutions and individuals. It is the voice of the past calling to those of the present and future to maintain and perpetuate this vital connection. Though we be polished and elevated now, we should not be ashamed or ignorant of our past, because it was an "unhewn rock," or a "deep pit"; but instead we need to know and study the origins and sources of our lives, which, indeed, are rooted in the past, and have grown up out of the past. We are, therefore, vitally and indissolubly tied to the past, whether we know it or wish it. This is especially true of our family genealogy and history, which, though we may find it in some cases an "unhewn rock," or a "deep pit," yet it will be profitable and inspirational to know and consider, or at least I have found it so of the Cowden genealogy and history, and therefore desire to pass the same on to the Southern Cowdens of the present and future.

I started out to trace and record only my own genealogical line and history, but found it so intertwined with the other Southern lines of Cowdens that it was necessary to publish all to distinguish one from the other. I found that there were four emigrant lines of Cowdens in the South, beginning in the same section of North Carolina with Samuel, William, Robert and John Cowden, from whom the Cowdens of the South have descended. One of the old family negroes, introducing his fourth wife to my mother in her old age, said, "Miss May, I wanted Mandy to know some of my white folks. There are not many of us left, Miss May, but we are mighty close kin." I used to think that there were not many Cowdens in the South; but on investigation I have found that they are quite numerous, and many of

us are not as close kin in blood relationship as I would like; yet I feel, like the old negro, a very close bond to all the Cowdens of the South, and in more ways than one we are mighty close kin.

The pride of ancestry and the hope of posterity are distinctively human motives, which lie at the foundation of the family. Some individualists profess to have no interest in their ancestry, which, however, is gross ingratitude or ignorance in most cases, because all of us are largely indebted to our ancestors for what we have and are. A few have been so unfortunate as to inherit curses instead of blessings; but this is not true of the Cowden family. Their blood and character streams have been kept pure and clean; so no Cowden has just cause for ingratitude, but instead should feel deeply grateful and join heartily in paying honor to the memories of those from whom he has descended—those that gave him life, property and character. On the other hand, there are no grounds for any haughty pride of family superiority, because there have been no geniuses, celebrities or any that could be classed among the “great of earth.” They have not been of the royalty or nobility, nor of the peasantry, but of the gentry—the great middle class of people. In all places of their habitation they have been land-owners and tillers of the soil; and, when they have left the soil, it has been for the professions such as law, medicine, ministry, etc. There have been many doctors and some lawyers, teachers, and ministers among them, but few merchants, manufacturers, or strictly business men. All and in all we have a “goodly heritage,” for which all should be grateful and proud; and in recognition and honor of those from whom we received it, this genealogy and history is written and dedicated. The family inheritance is thus passed on to future generations of Cowdens, who, it is hoped, will be more worthy and useful than their ancestors.

The genealogies and histories of the Cowden families living in the East and North of the United States have been written by two members of the Cowden family, namely, the Rev. James Marcus Welch, Indiana, Pa., and the Rev. Robert Cowden, of Dayton, Ohio; but so far no one has taken it in hand to record in book form the genealogy and history of the Southern branches of the family, thereby extending the genealogical stream and linking together the family as a whole and tying up thus the past, the present and future of the Cowden family. We deeply appreciate the family pride and loyalty that led to the writing of the above genealogies, the one in 1904 and the other in 1915, and

regret that the deaths of the authors prevent a personal acknowledgment of our gratitude and debt. Mr. Welch, whose mother was Mary Cowden, wrote the history of the Pennsylvania Cowdens; and Robert Cowden wrote of the Ohio, Illinois and Indiana Cowdens; so it remains for someone to supplement their work with a history of the Southern Cowdens, which, with the aid of many other members of the family, is herein undertaken.

As to sources of information, we have had to depend largely upon court records and family traditions, as none of our ancestors left any written records of their day and generation; however, all the facts herein given are historically authentic and have been personally verified by the author. No attempt has been made to give the day of births and deaths; but the year dates of the past generations have been taken from family or Bible records and tombstones, and can be used as certified dates. Personal dates of the present generations may be inserted with pen and ink.

I would have liked to have had more personal history and character facts about many of the Cowdens, unknown to me; but those reporting them to me gave little of their lives and characters, so I could publish only what they gave. I am sure there were many incidents and traits in their lives that should have been recorded.

I wish to acknowledge my debt of gratitude to all members of the family who have aided me in this genealogy and history, especially my brother, Dr. C. N. Cowden, my cousins, Mrs. W. W. Ogilvie, Lewisburg, Tenn., and Mrs. Ernest Sullivan, Oklahoma City, Okla., and more distant cousins, Miss Sudie E. Cowden, Village Springs, Ala., Mr. W. D. Cowden, Oneonta, Ala., Mr. Glenn I. Cowden, Parsons, Kans., Mrs. F. E. Jones, Rosedale, Miss., Mr. Calvin Cowden, Fort Blackmore, Va., Edward Lance, Sparta, Tenn., and Mr. Elliot F. Cowden, Midland, Texas, without whose aid these records could not have been compiled.

Every care and caution have been taken by the author and printers to prevent mistakes; but, since we are not personally acquainted with many of the persons and places, there may yet be minor mistakes; and, if so, we shall be glad to correct same in the unsold copies. On the whole, if you like the book and value it, we would appreciate hearing from you. All that we expect to get out of the book is the joy of having rendered the family a service.

CHAPTER II

ANCIENT HISTORY (1500-1700)

The first historical mention of the Cowden name is of the Cowdens in Scotland in the sixteenth century. "The ancient Gaelic spelling of the name was Choille-dun, which signifies the wooded hill;" but the Anglo-Saxon form, Cowden, signified a "dweller in the cow valley," according to Prof. Hubertis Cummings, of the department of English, University of Cincinnati, a Cowden descendant, who has investigated the origins of the name and family. The first known reference is in an old English history of Norfolkshire to Thomas and Nathaniel Cowden, who are frequently mentioned in land transactions. These are mentioned by Charles W. Bardsley, author of English surnames, as the earliest allusions. There are occasional references in later documents of public record in Scotland and England; and there are still people and places there by this name, notwithstanding the many migrations of Cowdens into other countries. Cowdenbeath is a large, prosperous town a few miles north of Edinburgh; and there is a small town about thirty miles south of London that bears this name. Also near Earlston, Berwickshire, Scotland, there are the Cowdenknowes, or hills. Of the Cowdenknowes, Prof. Cummings writes: "These two knowes, the Black Hill and the White Hill, the former covered with golden broom during the spring, still exist under the old name; and the square three-storied tower, or peel, of date anteceding 1500 A.D., may be found at the end of a shadowy avenue of trees about a mile and a half from Earlston. To the rear of the tower stands the modern 18th and 19th mansion of the estate above the river, Leader, at the edge of which also appear the crumbling ruins of the keep or dungeon of the ancient castle." This is the Tweed Country of Walter Scott, who speaks of the Cowdenknowes and the Cowden Peel. Washington Irving writes of the Cowdenknowes as follows:



Top: The Black Hill of the Cowdenknowes, now a part of the estate of the Earl of Hane

Center: The Ancient Peel, now used as entrance to Castle below

Bottom: The 17th and 18th century Castle of the Earls of Hane, at the rear of which, over the Leader River, is seen the ancient keep.

"What a thrill of pleasure did I receive when I first saw the broom-covered tops of the Cowdenknowes!" The following old Scotch poem over the signature of "S. R." appeared in Ramsey's Tea Table Miscellany:

THE BROOM OF COWDENKNOWES

"O the broom, the bonnie, bonnie broom,
The broom of Cowdenknowes;
I wish I were with my dear swain
With his pipe and my ewes.

How blyth ilk morn was I to see
My swain come o'er the hill;
He skipt the burn, and flew to me
I met him with good will.

I neither wanted ewe nor lamb,
While his flock near me lay;
He gather'd in my sheep at night,
And cheered me a' the day.

He tuned his pipe and reed so sweet.
The birds stood list'ning by;
E'en the dull cattle stood and gaz'd,
Charm'd with his melody.

While thus we spent our time by turns
Betwixt our flocks and play,
I envy'd not the fairest dame,
Tho' n'er so rich and gay."

Thus it is clear from what country the Cowdens originally came; and they were of sufficient importance to leave their name indelibly stamped upon the country from which they sprang. The Cowdens have retained the marks of their Scotch ancestry to the present. The author, who was on a boat en route to Europe a few years ago, was picked out as a Scotchman, and was taken for a Scotchman in London. We are proud, however, of our Scotch ancestry; in fact, there is in all the race no better, notwithstanding the many slurs and jokes on the Scotch. Johnson, who was prejudiced against the Scotch, defined oatmeal in his dictionary as "food for horses and Scotchmen;" and the Scotchman replied, "Yes, but what horses and what men!"

The Cowdens are not only Scotch, but they are Scotch-Irish. During the reign of James I., the Scotch king, who by inheritance

extended his dominion over England and Ireland, the Irish earls of Tyrone and Tyreonnell, who were of the Catholic faith and party, conspired and rebelled against the government, but were defeated and compelled to flee from Ireland to escape punishment and death. Their vast estates, containing about 500,000 acres of land in the northern part of Ireland, escheated to the crown. While King James I. was in no sense a loyal Protestant, being both Protestant and Catholic as suited best his political interests, he decided to dispossess all Catholic inhabitants on this land by offering the land to Scotch Protestants. Accordingly, the land was divided into small tracts, and Scotch Protestants were urged to settle upon the same. Many of them went over then, but many more later. Religious conditions in Scotland were very favorable for such a move. Bishops had been forced upon the Church over the protest of loyal Presbyterians and Puritans; and the Church was otherwise threatened with Catholic changes and influences, which were very objectionable to Protestants, especially Presbyterians. The Presbyterians were thus compelled by conscience to emigrate; and they went in great numbers to Ireland, and settled upon the escheated lands of King James I., which comprised a part of what is known as Ulster. This emigration extended from 1620 to 1660 or later.

Among these emigrants to Ireland was Thomas Cowden, from whom the Irish and American Cowdens have descended. An old book in a Philadelphia library says, "One Thomas Mac-Cowden removed from Scotland to Ireland and dropped the 'Mac'," which Irish influences would naturally lead him to do. He settled in Donnegal County, on or near Cunningham Manor on the road from Letterkenney to Londonderry. A large building here, used as a storage house, long bore the name of Cowden, and one street still bears the name Cowden Row. His son, Thomas, is thought to be the father of the men who emigrated to the United States. The Cowdens lived in this section for about a hundred years, when conditions led them to emigrate to America about 1728-50. Prof. Hubertis Cummings adds the following:

"They may have descended from the Cowdens who came into Ireland with General Monroe's army of ten thousand men at Carrickfergus between February and May, 1642, sent over from Scotland during the reign of Charles I. to aid in quelling the Irish Rebellion of that year, who for his efficient service was rewarded with the Townland of Toughlomme, County Down; and there is good evidence, derived from the Irish Cowdens of Belfast and of the Townland

of Greenogue, Dromore, that Mathew Cowden was of the same family stock of Cowdens who were settled in County Down prior to 1650 A.D."

The Scotch and Irish Cowdens had the same coat-of-arms, which shows that they were of the same family; and the fact that they were early assigned a coat-of-arms shows that they were of high and honorable standing in the realm among the gentry.



The above is an uncolored reproduction of the Cowden coat-of-arms. The shield had a sky-blue field bearing three golden rings with a white center bearing a black lion in the position of walking. The crest ring was also golden, bearing the head of a black lion. This book is in the Cowden colors: blue, gold, black and white, which make a pleasing and artistic combination. The symbol of the family's standing and loyalty, like all coats-of-arms, was militaristic in form and meaning, which was true to the standards and ideals of that day. They lived in a world controlled by force when might made right, beyond which, I fear, we have not progressed very far yet; but we have no such military insignia today. At least we are not so proud of our militarism as to wear a coat-of-arms; but the fact that the old Cowdens did, shows that they were loyal citizens, true to their standards and ideals. In all wars in which we find the Cowdens enrolled they fought on the side of right and freedom; however, in the War Between the States they fought on both sides; but, as we view this war today, there was right and wrong on both sides. In fact, we have come to regard all wars thus, if not wrong altogether. One of the horrible things about war is, there is often, as in the above war, brother fighting against brother. May the Cowdens of the future be among those that rise above and denounce all war!

In spite of the large emigration of Presbyterians from Scotland to Ireland, Ireland as a whole continued what it has always

been—Catholic, so the Scotch Presbyterians never felt themselves at home in this country. They were regarded and treated as foreigners and heretics by the Irish as a whole, so they embraced the first opportunity to remove to a more congenial clime. About this time began the stream of emigration from all over Europe into America, which was being rapidly opened up and settled. True to the spirit of adventure and religion, which characterized their Scotch-Irish ancestors, the Cowdens joined this tide of emigration west to a new country of hope and promise,—hope of a land where they could worship according to the dictates of conscience, and the promise of a home with peace and plenty. But this time it was a far-away country across a great ocean,—a long and perilous journey in the ships of that day, which called for heroic resolution and great endurance of suffering; but the pioneers of that day never quailed before such hardships, but steadfastly set their faces toward the New World. Among the emigrants of that early day to America none have made a greater impression and contribution to the life of America than the Scotch-Irish. There still remains a national organization of their descendants, whose headquarters are in New York. The Cowdens have a clear title to membership in this organization, and should be glad to avail themselves of the same as they have opportunity.

The records of this early emigration show that there were three or four Cowden families that came to the United States from Ireland, namely, James Cowden, who settled in Massachusetts; William and Mathew Cowden, who settled in Pennsylvania; and William Cowden, who settled in Virginia. These came to this country with their families about 1728-35. These men are supposed, according to the time of their births, to be the grandsons of Thomas Cowden, who came from Scotland. James Cowden was born in Ireland in 1695 and married Lady Polly Conner, by whom he had one son, David, and afterwards married Janet Craig, by whom he had six children, namely, Thomas, William, Marguret, Samuel, Robert and James, and one historian adds John, born from 1720 to 1737. On coming to America he settled at North Worcester, or Holden, Mass., where he bought land in 1731, and founded a home. Thomas afterwards moved to Fitchburg, Mass., of which he was one of the founders and builders. These men were active and prominent in the Revolutionary War, and were the heads of prominent and wealthy New England families, where their descendants have lived and prospered.

Samuel and Robert, I think, came south to Virginia and North Carolina, and became the ancestors of the Texas and Alabama Cowdens.

William Cowden, born in Ireland, came with his family to America in 1730, and settled on Fagg's Manor in Chester County, Pa., where he lived and died, in 1745. Rev. Robert Cowden, of Dayton, Ohio, one of his descendants, has written the genealogy and history of his descendants. He was twice married in Ireland, where most of his ten children, three boys and seven girls, were born. The first generation of this family lived in Chester County, Pa.; but the next generations moved with the westward tide of emigration into Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, where they have continued to live. For a full account of this family, see book, *Cowden, Gilliland*, by Rev. Robert Cowden.

Mathew Cowden (1707-1773), born in Ireland, son of William Cowden, came to America about 1728 or 1729, and settled at Paxtang, on the banks of the Susquehanna River, near Harrisburg, Pa., where he lived and reared a family of eight children, one of whom, John, moved to North Carolina, and is the ancestor of the Tennessee branch of the Cowden family. Mathew Cowden married Martha Johnson (whether in this country or in Ireland is not known); however, the children were all born in this country, the first in 1731, which indicates they were married in this country. The Rev. James Marcus Welch, of Indiana, Pa. (dec'd), wrote the genealogy and history of the members of this family that remained in Pennsylvania, from whom I quote the following on the children of Mathew Cowden:

"Mathew Cowden had eight children, of some of whom only the names have been discovered. 1st, William, born January 11th, 1731, a Revolutionary soldier, who took the oath of allegiance August 29th, 1777. He served through the war, and died at York Town of camp fever in 1782, aged 51 years.

2nd, Marguret, born in 1733, and wed John Gilchrist. Two of their children were Martha, who married John Bell, and Mathew, who married Elizabeth Crouch.

3rd, John, born in 1735, and married Mary Reynolds about 1750, moved to Western Pennsylvania, had 12 children, died at the age of 41 years at Cumberland, Md., after which family returned to Canonsburg, Washington County, Pa., buying a farm, which is still in the family. (In error as to John Cowden, as I will show.—Ed.)

4th, James, born June 16th, 1737, and died October 10th, 1810, suddenly, aged 73. His wife was Mary Crouch, daughter of Captain James Crouch, of Virginia. This James Cowden was an ardent patriot, as indeed was the rest of the family, which gave three sons to fight for liberty. He was captain of 114 men under Colonel James Burd, and served throughout the war. He was an

elder in the Presbyterian Church at Paxtang, and also associate judge of Dauphin County, and a presidential elector for Madison in 1809; buried in Paxtang village; 7 children.

5th, Mary, born 1739, died 1809, wedded to David Wray.

6th, Elizabeth, born 1741, married Robt. Keys.

7th, Rebeca, born in 1743.

8th, Benjamin, 1745; he moved to South Carolina, and was killed by the Tories. We wonder if he was married, and went to the settlement of the Scotch-Irish in the vicinity of Charleston, and was marked by his patriotic zeal as a victim of destruction by the Tories."

There are a few errors in Mr. Welch's genealogy and history of Mathew Cowden and his children. First, Benjamin did not go to South Carolina but to North Carolina, as shown by his will on record at Salisbury, leaving his property to his two sisters above, Elizabeth and Rebeca, which shows that he left no children. Another error is in regard to the third child, John, who, according to Mr. Welch, lived and died in Pennsylvania, leaving a family of 12 children, the descendants of whom are still there, and are the subjects of Mr. Welch's genealogy. I have proof, which I will give in a following chapter, to show that John Cowden of Mathew Cowden's family, went to North Carolina, married and lived there, from whom the Cowdens of Tennessee descended, so then the Cowden man whose Pennsylvania descendants Mr. Welch gives, was not named John, or if named John, he did not belong to Mathew Cowden's family, because there would not be two Johns in the same family.

With the exceptions of John and Benjamin Cowden, all the other members of Mathew Cowden's family remained in Pennsylvania; and many of their descendants are still there today, who are more closely and directly related to the Tennessee Cowdens than the other Southern branches of the Cowden family. The genealogy and history of James Cowden, who was an ardent Colonial patriot, captain and lieutenant-colonel in the War for Independence, Justice of the Peace of Lower Paxton, Associate Judge of Dauphin County, Presidential Elector for Madison, etc., has been written by several Pennsylvania historians, whose works are in the Pennsylvania State Library; and in addition to these historical records, Prof. Hubertis Cummings, of the University of Cincinnati, a descendant of James Cowden, has compiled, revised, and brought down to date the Pennsylvania family history, which is also filed with the State Library. Among the descendants of James Cowden, according to Prof. Cummings,

there have been several men of standing and influence in Dauphin County and Harrisburg, such as John Wallace Cowden, early surveyor and City Engineer of Harrisburg, who was succeeded in the office by his son, Mathew Benjamin Cowden, who held the office until his death, and was succeeded by his son, Edward Clark Cowden, who holds the office today. Also the Cowdens of the old and well-known manufacturing firm, Cowden and Wilcox Potteries, belonged to this same family. The above are merely named as connecting links between the Pennsylvania and Tennessee Cowdens.

The first pioneer settlement of Cowdens in the South seems to have been made in Augusta County, Va., about 1740, by William Cowden, who was an Irish emigrant. He came from Londonderry, Ireland, where he appears to have been a man of standing and influence. He was in the uprising of the Ulstermen; and on their defeat he had to flee the country. He went first to France, and thence across the Atlantic to America, and came into Virginia, doubtless by way of Pennsylvania, where the other Cowdens from the same section of Ireland had settled. Coming from the same place in Ireland, he was doubtless closely related to the Pennsylvania Cowdens. Following a tradition of the family, that he left considerable property in Londonderry, Mrs. Calvit, of Clinton, Miss., one of his descendants, sent a lawyer back there to investigate, but found all property confiscated. William Cowden and his descendants will be set forth in a following chapter on the Virginia and Mississippi Cowdens, where his descendants went.

Several years later, about 1754, three brothers, Robert, Samuel, and Walter Cowden, came south into Virginia and North Carolina. Whether they were emigrants from Ireland, or were the sons of James Cowden, of Worcester, Mass., mentioned above, I have not been able to establish fully; but I am inclined to the latter view. They were of the right age to have belonged to the Massachusetts family; and there were a Robert and a Samuel in this family, who left that state. The name, Walter, does not appear in the Massachusetts family; however, the records are very old and doubtless incomplete, so this omission is quite natural. Samuel Cowden settled first in Augusta County, Va., and later followed his brothers, Robert and Walter, into Mechlenburg County, N. C. His descendants, who emigrated west into Georgia and thence into Texas, will be set forth in a following chapter on the Texas Cowdens. Robert Cowden settled

in Mechlenburg County, N. C., about 1754, and his descendants, who emigrated west into Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Missouri, will be set forth in a following chapter on the Alabama and Missouri Cowdens. The Cowdens of the South have descended from the above four men, John, William, Samuel, and Robert Cowden, so these four lines of Cowdens will be traced in this book.

CHAPTER III

VIRGINIA AND MISSISSIPPI COWDENS

WILLIAM COWDEN I

As stated in the preceding chapter, Virginia was the first Southern home of the Cowdens, but for some reason they did not remain there. The Cowdens were Presbyterians; and Virginia at that time had a state church, which was the Episcopal, so other faiths were discouraged and sometimes persecuted, which might have accounted for the Cowdens' moving on into North Carolina, where the Presbyterians were established and free. However, there are still Cowdens in Virginia, so some of them either remained or later returned to the state.

Colonial history and court records show the names of several pioneer Cowdens in Virginia, namely: William, Samuel, James, Jennet, etc.; but only the first three appear in subsequent records. I have been unable to establish fully from which of the above Cowdens, William or Samuel, the Cowdens living in Virginia today, descended. As shown in the wills of both, each had two sons. The sons of William were James and William. James moved into Burke County, N. C.; and his descendants thence into Mississippi. I do not know what became of William. He doubtless remained in Virginia and became the ancestor of the Virginia Cowdens. His father willed him and his brother James a farm in Pittsylvania County, where they later lived, and also in Henry County. These counties are in the western part of the state near where the Cowdens now live. The sons of Samuel Cowden were John and Walter. Court records in Augusta County show that Samuel Cowden and his wife, Martha, who was the widow Wilson, separated, and he went to Mechlenburg, N. C.; but his sons remained in Virginia with their mother until they were grown; but it appears from the father's will that they also must have gone to North Carolina and thence into Georgia, becoming the

ancestors of the Texas Cowdens; and William Cowden remained in Virginia, and became the ancestor of the Virginia Cowdens. (See pages on Mississippi Cowdens in this chapter for more about William Cowden.)

VIRGINIA COWDENS

The Cowdens that remained in or returned to Virginia moved west into the extreme Southwestern counties, namely: Smyth, Scott, Wise and Lee, which are in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Many of the Cowdens have shown a preference for the highlands, which may be due to their Scotch blood. They were not at home in the lowlands of Ireland, but came to America the first opportunity, many of them becoming finally located in the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee and Alabama. Also the abundance of game might have been a factor in leading them into the mountains.

According to data, sent in by Calvin H. Cowden, of Fort Blackmore, Va., and Edward Lance, of Sparta, Tenn., there were two brothers and a cousin who settled in the above counties, namely, Calvin and Hiram Cowden in Scott County, and William Cowden in Smyth County, whose sons, Amos, John and Eli, settled in Wise and Lee Counties, Va., and White County, Tenn., or at least the descendants of these men are reported from these counties. Amos Cowden is reported as a cousin of Calvin and Hiram Cowden, so all must have been grandsons of the William Cowden who remained in Virginia, son of the emigrant William Cowden. This completes the generations, and is undoubtedly true.

Hiram Cowden left no descendants. Calvin Cowden had six children, namely: Robert, Nancy, Margaret, Emily, Katherine and Lucinda. Nancy Cowden married a Carter and had three children, Sallie, Rosa and James. Margaret Cowden married a Snately and had four children, Robert, James, Charlie and Mallie. Emily married — and had two children, William and Mary. Katherine had no children. Lucinda Cowden married a Johnson and had three children, Worley, Callie and Hattie. Robert Cowden married — and had three children, Lucy, Calvin and Mary C. Lucy Cowden married — and had six children, Oscar, Robert, Callie, Elsie, Willard and Lizzie. Mary C. Cowden married a Mann, and had four children, Ester, Nannie, Rosa and Mina. Calvin Cowden married — and had four children, C. A., Ross, James and Ray. C. A. Cowden married — and had two children, Edna Mae and Myrtle June. Ross Cowden married — and had two children, C. H., Jr. and Geraldine. James Cowden married — and had three children, Dana R., Kathleen and Claude. Ray Cowden married — and had four children, Olene, Lucile, James R. and Ferrel.

WILLIAM COWDEN

William Cowden married Elizabeth Snanely (1790-1854), who was of Dutch descent, and lived at Chatham Hill, Va. They had four boys, James (1810), Amos (1816), John (1818), and Eli (1832-63); and three girls, Polly (1814), who married Solomon Wolfe; Catherine (1825-52), who married Reece Crabtree; and Rachel (1812), who married Nathan Harris. (No report on children of any of the above except Amos and Eli.) Amos married and had four children, James O., John H., Thomas and William R. James O. Cowden married — and had two children, Jane and Ollie. John H. Cowden married — and had five children, Bah, William, Henry, Amos and Hyatt. Bah Cowden married — and had three children, Clay, William and Robert. William Cowden married —, and had four children, Georgie, Pat, Billie and Ione. Henry Cowden married — and had three children, Wade M., H. C., Jr. and Richard F. Hyatt Cowden married — and had five children, Amos C., John, Rhoda, Elno and Delva. Thomas Cowden married — and had six children, Belt, Franklin, Henry W., Walter, Lizzie and Robert. Belt Cowden married — and had two children, Wenis and Fay. Wm. R. Cowden married — and had two children, Mary and Wm. R., Jr., who married — and had five children, Clyde, Robert, Charles W., Georgie E., and Calvin H.

Eli Cowden married Mary H. French and lived in Virginia near Marion. He came to White County, Tenn., where he lived several years previous to the War Between the States, but returned to Virginia about the time of the outbreak of the war, where he enlisted in the Confederate Army, Company K, 63rd Virginia Regiment, and was killed in action in the battle of Chickamauga, September 20, 1863. After his death his family returned to White County, Tenn. He left three children, namely: W. F. Cowden (1861), who married Nancy Jane Blankenship and lives at Oktaha, Okla.; Rachel Elizabeth (1855-1916), who married W. H. Green; and John W. Cowden (1853-1928). No further report on the above except the last. John W. Cowden married Eugenie Williams, daughter of Dr. E. D. Williams, studied medicine, and practiced in White County until his death. His children are Annie Kathleen (1893), who married Robert A. England and lives in Sparta, Tenn.; Marshall M. Cowden (1883), who married Laura Goodwin and has been a teacher in the schools of White County for years, being now the head of the school at Bon Air, Tenn.; A. B. Cowden (1885), farmer, who lives between Sparta and Cookeville, Tenn.; and Ida Taylor Cowden (1892), who married Jeff Lance, whose children are John Edward (1914), James Clyde (1919), and Claud Carson (1919-20).

There are a number of Cowdens in Knoxville, Tenn., who, on account of their nearness to the Virginia Cowdens, I suppose must belong to this branch of the family; but, though interviewed and written to, they are incommunicative, or know nothing of their origins. The following names were taken from the city directory: Mr. and Mrs. A. Judson Cowden; Mrs. C. H. Cowden; Mrs. Elmer G. Cowden; Eugene F. Cowden; H. L. Cowden; Isam G. Cowden; James A. Cowden; W. Anderson Cowden; Granville T. Cowden; Mrs. Ellen M. Cowden; J. C. Cowden; and J. H. Cowden.

GEORGE ALEXANDER COWDEN

Another branch of Southern Cowdens that came out of Virginia, and doubtless descended from William Cowden, Irish emi-

grant, is that of George Alexander Cowden, born in Virginia about 1800, who married Jane McAllister Holliday about 1818, and moved to Kentucky before 1824. They had eight children, namely: James William de la Fletcher, Charles, Lucy, Sarah, Frederick, Jane, Fannie, and Keluria; but only the descendants of one of them, Rev. James William de la Fletcher, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, have been reported to me. He was born in Kentucky, July 26, 1824, and died at Lebanon, Ky., August 23, 1896, having dropped the "de la" from his name. He married on April 25, 1849, Harriett Rebecca Gamble, of Athens, Ohio, daughter of William Gamble and Catherine Long, and granddaughter of Aaron Gamble, Irish immigrant to Pennsylvania and Indiana, and Katherine Crawford, of Indiana. Harriett Rebecca Gamble Cowden was born in Athens, Ohio, September 26, 1826, and died in Pine Bluff, Ark., October 20, 1930, at the age of 104 years. Her life and death were featured in the Pine Bluff papers at the time of her decease. This is the oldest couple that I have found among the Cowdens—96 and 104.

They had seven children, namely: William Long, Charles Holliday, Lara Harriett, Maria Louise, Martha, Mary, and Jane. William Long Cowden married Florence Gardiner, and died in Kansas City in 1913. (No report as to their children.) Lara Harriett Cowden married Frank McCord, and died in St. Louis in 1926. (No report as to their children.) Charles Holliday Cowden married first, Mamie McMasters, and second, Daisy Alexander. (No report as to their children.) He lives in California. Maria Louise Cowden, unmarried, died in Bourbon, Mo. Martha Cowden married Marvin O. Taylor, and died in Bourbon, Mo. (No report as to their children.) Mary Cowden married John Walker, and lives in Pine Bluff, Ark. (No report as to children.) Jane Cowden married Charles W. Long, and lives in Colorado Springs, Col. (No report as to children.)

MISSISSIPPI COWDENS

I am indebted to Mrs. F. C. Jones, of Rosedale, Miss., who married a descendant of William Cowden, for the material of this chapter, who, for many years, at great expense of time and labor, has been gathering this family data. Mrs. Jones in turn gives credit to Mr. Washington J. Smith, of Lulalanding, Ark., another descendant, who gathered some of this Cowden data. Without communication with her, this line of Southern Cowdens would have been overlooked, because there are few or no male represen-



Mrs. F. C. Jones, Rosedale, Miss.

tatives of the family living today, by whose name I could have located this branch of the family. This line of Cowdens is, perhaps, the oldest of the Southern Cowdens. William Cowden came to this country about 1735 from Londonderry, Ireland, where he seems to have been a man of standing and influence. He was in the uprising of the Ulstermen and on their defeat he had to flee the country. He went first to France, and thence across the Atlantic to America. He doubtless came into the South by way of Pennsylvania, where the Cowdens from the same section in Ireland had previously settled, and, coming from the same place in Ireland, was certainly closely related to them. Following a tradition of the family, that he left considerable property in Londonderry, Ireland, Mrs. Calvit, of Clinton, Miss., one of his descendants, sent a lawyer back there to investigate, but found it long ago confiscated.

William Cowden settled in Augusta County, Va., about 1740, near the time when Preston brought his twenty-three shiploads of Scotch-Irish to this country. He is recorded as buying land in Orange and Pittsylvania Counties in 1742, and he must have bought land in Augusta County, where he lived before this. A Virginia history has the following to say about these Augusta County Scotch-Irish settlers:

"The Scotch-Irish settled Augusta County in 1740, near the present city of Staunton. These people constituted the skirmish line of civilization, and they bore their part manfully in the development of the new country. These pioneer settlers had religious convictions. The Augusta Old Stone Church, established in 1740, is still standing, a monument to these heroic men and women. During the French and Indian wars the Scotch-Irish of Augusta County stood as a bulwark against the Indians in their inroads east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. So valuable were their services that the colonial laws of the Episcopal Church were not enforced against these dissenting Presbyterians. At Point Pleasant, the bloodiest battle in the war, 650 men from Augusta County took part." James Cowden, son of William Cowden, was said to have been in this battle.

The will of William Cowden, which is the oldest Cowden document that I have found, is as follows:

"In the name of God, Amen. Jan. the 17th the year of 1748 I William Cowden in the County of Augusta being sick and weak in body but in perfect mind and memory thanks be to God therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say principally and first of all I recommend my soul unto God that gave it and as for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christian manner at the discretion of executors nothing doubt-

ing but at the general resurrection to receive it again by the mighty power of God that gave it, and as for such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life I give and dispose in the following manner: First, I order my just and lawful debts to be paid. Imprimis I give to my dearly beloved sons James and William the plantation which I possess at sixteen years of age to be equally divided only I order my wife Jane her maintainance out of it as long as she remains single or unmarried. I order that the movables to be divided equally in three shares first to my beloved wife Jane and likewise to my sons James and William division to be made at the discretion of my executors. I order my executors to see my children schooled and I do hereby disannull and disallow and revoke all and every other former will and testament and legacy and executors by me in any way before time named and confirm this and no other to be my last will and testament. As witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

WILLIAM COWDEN.

Signed and sealed in the presence of James Atkins and John Moore executors and Walter Atkins, Alex Moore and Samuel Moore witnesses. Probated 16th day of Feb. 1748 by the above executors by record of Harry Burnett clerk.

The above will breathes a deeply religious atmosphere, and shows William Cowden to have been a devoutly religious man. It is not known whether or not he was married before coming to Virginia; but, according to the age of his children, he most likely married in Virginia.

His sons, James and William, lived in several counties in Virginia, as shown by court records. The farm willed to them above was in Pittsylvania County, and they also lived in the adjoining county of Henry. Unless William Cowden remained in Virginia and became the ancestor of the Cowdens now living there, it is not known what became of him, as no further record of him has been found. There are many mentions of James, who was known as Captain James Cowden from his position and activity in the Colonial wars. He was living in Augusta County in the 1760's, as shown by his going security for Samuel Cowden and by another man's deed touching his land. This indicates that he was closely related to Samuel Cowden. He seems to have been living in Pittsylvania County before 1775, as shown by a deed by himself and brother, William, and in Henry County before 1778, which was cut out of Pittsylvania County. His war record is contained in History of Henry County, Hennings Statutes and Virginia Military Warrants, Jefferson County. He was captain of the militia from Henry County, and was given 2,000 acres of land in Kentucky for his service in the War for Independence. He appears as one of the most active and patriotic soldiers in all

the Colonial wars, which is a record that all Cowdens should be proud of. He served in North Carolina, and was in the battle of Guilford Court House.

He married Sarah Hawkins, the daughter of Joseph Hawkins, son of Joseph and Jane Hawkins, whose will is on record in Spotsylvania County. Joseph Hawkins was also a captain in the Colonial wars (see Augusta County Annals), during which time, 1778-88, as shown by gravestone of his youngest child, he and his mother, Jane Hawkins, were living in Dinwiddie County. Sometime after the close of the War for Independence, perhaps soon after 1790, as he is not in the 1790 census report from North Carolina and Virginia, he moved to Burke County, N. C. He was doubtless induced to move to North Carolina by the McDowells, whom he had known in Virginia; as he settled near them on Buck River on the old Asheville Road, seven miles from what is now Marion County Court House, and a few miles from Pleasant Gardens. Captain James Cowden and wife lived and died here, in 1810 and 1809 respectively, and are buried in unmarked graves in what is now known as the Greenlee Burial Hill. After his death, his children sold the land to the Greenlees. The Burke County records were destroyed by the Union Army during the War Between the States by emptying them into tanyard vats, so much of the family records was lost.

The children of Captain James Cowden and wife, Sarah Hawkins, were as follows: William and Joseph, both of whom died in childhood; Jane (1779); James (1780); Elizabeth (1782); John (1784); Mary (1786); and Sarah (1788). These men and women are reported as being strikingly handsome and beautiful. Elizabeth, who married Judge Obidiah Jones, was known in her young ladyhood as "pretty Betty Cowden." Whether this beauty of feature and form came from the Cowdens or Hawkins is not known; but, judging from the Cowden photographs in this book, I think that much of it came from the Cowden side. Also, judging from the character of the families into which the above Cowdens married, this family must have been of high standing in North Carolina; and those that moved to Mississippi were among the first families of that state. They were truly aristocratic. After the death of James Cowden, the family did not remain long in North Carolina, but moved on west with the tide of emigration, and we follow them in their westward trek. Most of them moved into Mississippi, where they reared families. They traveled by land to Huntsville, Ala., and thence down the Natchez

Trace to Jefferson County, Miss., where they settled. John Cowden, the younger son, came down in a flat-boat on the Tennessee, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, bringing slaves and household things, and afterwards settled at Eagle Lake in Issaquena County on the Mississippi River. This section comprises the Delta of the Mississippi River, the richest section of the state.

JANE COWDEN

Jane Cowden married a Mr. Burns, of Georgia, and they had a daughter, Helen, who married a Mr. Simmons, and removed from Georgia to near Talladega, Ala. Three children, namely, Eliza, Robert, and Trout, all very strikingly handsome, are reported. The boys were in the War Between the States, and Robert was badly wounded in the Kansas Jayhawker trouble; but nothing more is known of them and their descendants, if any.

JAMES COWDEN

James Cowden settled near Rodney, Jefferson County, Miss., where he lived and became wealthy. He was twice married. By his first wife, Ann Bradford, he had one son, John James (1819-1849); and by his second wife, a widow, Mrs. Ann H. Simpson, he had one son, William Virginus, who died in childhood. After the death of the father in 1832, as is often the case with step-children, there was a law-suit over the will and property. John James Cowden moved to Memphis, where he married Ellen Bradford of Memphis, and died in 1849, leaving five children, as follows: Ann Eliza, who married Hugh H. Higbee, who left two children, Eleanor Rebecca and Hugh H., now living in or near Memphis; James Bradford Cowden, who died in childhood; John Calvit Cowden, who died single in 1872 at the age of 25; Ellen Francis, who died single in 1884; and May Esibel Cowden, who married John Daniel Huln, and had two children, Elma Belle and Hugh Higbee, now living in Memphis and member of a printing firm, Jones, Huln & Company. Mrs. Henry Rawlings, 1965 Herbert Ave., Memphis, is a great granddaughter of John James Cowden.

JOHN COWDEN

John Cowden, the younger son of Captain James Cowden, came to Mississippi by flat-boat on the rivers, and settled at a point north of Vicksburg on Eagle Lake, where he lived and died. He married Sarah —— (her maiden name is unknown), and had

three children, one son and two daughters, one daughter, named Sarah for her mother; the other daughter married a Middleton, and moved to Arkansas; but nothing is further reported on either. The son, John Cowden, became a steamboat captain on the Mississippi River, and at one time commanded a sailing vessel running between New Orleans and South America. He was very intellectual and interesting, in fact, a genius. After the War Between the States he became widely known as an advocate of the outlet theory for the Mississippi River instead of levees, which was adopted by Congress. The overflows of recent years have proved that he was right, and engineers of the government have returned to his system of drainage. I understand that Congress is, or has considered the bestowing of some appropriate honor upon his memory for this service. I am informed that he left one son, Seldon Cowden, who went to Washington, D. C., in some secretarial capacity, and remained there; and one daughter, Emma, who is a teacher somewhere out west.

SARAH COWDEN

Sarah Cowden, the youngest daughter of Captain James Cowden, a very beautiful and attractive woman, married General Sam Calvit, in Jefferson County, Miss. She was called Aunt Calvit by her nephews and nieces to distinguish her from the other Sarahs of the family. She and her husband lived an active, prominent life in the affairs of Mississippi. They were among the early settlers of the state, and were there when the land in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida was acquired by the United States by treaty with Spain. There were large bodies of land held by Spaniards under grants from the crown, which grants, according to the treaty, were to be respected; but many of the holders, being fearful of their titles, sold their claims. General Calvit and his father bought immense bodies from these Spaniards, including the town of Rodney, Miss. Many Americans had settled on this land and held squatter's claims; but General Calvit won all suits for possession. He sold much of this land later at a great profit, and bought hundreds of negroes. The old name of the town was Pettigulph, a river landing; but Mrs. Calvit changed the name to Rodney, for the signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Sarah Cowden Calvit had only one child, Mary Hawkins, who died young, and her husband also died soon afterwards. Being left alone, she drove in her carriage back to the old Cowden neighborhood in North Carolina to her sister's, Mrs. Jason Car-

son, and prevailed upon her to let one of her daughters come to live with her in Mississippi; and Emily Hawkins Carson returned with her to Mississippi, where she met and married Mr. James Madison Smith, of Maryland, whose descendants will be herein later given. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Calvit, having large business interests to look after, was defrauded out of large sums of money through letters of credit in New York to some men, whom her husband had trusted and set up in business. She thereafter employed Mr. James M. Smith, of the Mississippi land office, who afterwards married her niece, Emily Hawkins Carson, to look after her affairs. She had much land and about three hundred negroes, and was known as "the Cotton Queen of the South." Selling much of her land and slaves in Jefferson County, Miss., she removed to Clinton, Miss., twelve miles west of Jackson, where she built a beautiful home with sunken gardens, one of the show places of the state, which she named "Pebble Hill." She afterwards prevailed upon her sister, Mrs. Mary Hawkins Carson and her husband to remove to Mississippi, and they settled two miles from Mrs. Calvit, where they built their beautiful home, "Flowery Dell," where Mr. Carson died. Mrs. Carson then made her home with Mrs. Calvit. Mrs. Calvit, after reading "Uncle Tom's Cabin," foresaw the coming of the War Between the States, so she sold all her slaves except the household servants and her home, "Pebble Hill"; and, putting her money in the Bank of England, moved down on the Gulf of Mexico near Mississippi City, where she bought land and built a home, and where she died in 1866. She was brought back for burial by the side of her husband and daughter at her old home in Jefferson County, which had been purchased by Edgar Wood, and name changed to Calverton in honor of its builder, General Samuel Calvit, and is still anoted place.

MARY HAWKINS COWDEN

Mary Hawkins Cowden, daughter of Captain James Cowden and Sarah Hawkins, married Jason Carson, son of Colonel John Carson and wife, who was a daughter of John McDowell, both prominent families of North Carolina. Colonel John Carson settled about 1750 in the junction of the Catauba and Buck Creek near the town of Marion. The home of Mary Hawkins Cowden and Jason Carson, which was beautiful and imposing, was near Marion, N. C., in fact, he gave the land on which the town is built; however, they later in life followed their daughter, Emily

Hawkins, and brothers and sisters to Mississippi, and built their new home, "Flowery Dell," out from Clinton, Miss., near the home of their sister, Mrs. Calvit. Their children, who were all born and reared in North Carolina, and some of whom went with them to Mississippi, were as follows: Caroline, Emily Hawkins, Mary, James, Sarah and Samuel. Only a partial list of their descendants has been reported, as follows:

1. Caroline Carson married Colonel Sydney Stanhope Erwin, of North Carolina, and removed to Mississippi at an early date and purchased land near the other members of the family, six miles southeast of Clinton. He died about 1849 and his wife died soon after. They left a large family, namely: Sarah, Emily, Jason Carson, William, Mary M., Stanhope and Samuel.

Sarah Erwin married Dr. John Glenn, of Holly Springs, Miss., and they had four children, Carrie, Archie, Sidney and Daisy. Carrie and Sidney died without heirs. Daisy married Richard S. Charles, Jr., and lived in New Orleans. She is reported as a very beautiful woman, and she or one of her daughters was queen of the Carnival at one time. She left three daughters living in New Orleans, Carrie, Daisy Glenn and Delphine. Carrie married Lieutenant Wise and lives in California. She has one son, Clinton Wise, Jr. Daisy Glenn married Adolph Wolfe and lives in New Orleans. She has one daughter, Daisy Glenn. Delphine married, first, Du Pre, by whom she had one child, Lucile, and second, C. S. Williams, New Orleans, by whom she has two children, Bettie and Frank.

Emily Hawkins Erwin married Judge H. H. Chalmers, who was one of the Supreme Court Judges of Mississippi when he died. They had one daughter, Fannie, who married Judge Wily H. Potter, of Jackson, Miss., and died, leaving one son, Chalmers Potter, a prominent lawyer of Jackson, who married Anna Virginia Neal, who died in Memphis, Tenn., in 1925, leaving two small daughters, Nancy and Ann Potter.

Mary Matilda Erwin married Washington Morrison Hardy, a lawyer of Asheville, N. C., who was a descendant of the founder of the "Log College," from which Princeton sprang, and was for several years Assistant Librarian of the Congressional Library. Their children were as follows: Sarah Glenn Hardy, who died in infancy. Emma Tennent Hardy, who married Edward A. Crawford, of Chester, S. C., both of whom are now dead. Their children are Giles Patterson Crawford, York, S. C., who married Maidae Thomas, and has one daughter, Patty. Kate Patton Crawford, York S. C., married her cousin, Alexander A. Crawford, and has one child, Alexander A., Jr. Edward A. Crawford, Jr., Richmond, Va., married Margurett De Jarnette, of Richmond, and has one daughter, Agnes. William W. Crawford, York, S. C., was a soldier in the World War. Geddings Hardy Crawford, of Columbia, S. C., married Jessie Thompson and has three children, namely: Louise, Emma Jean, Geddings Hardy Crawford, Jr. Mary Louise Crawford married Fred Haight, Charlotte, N. C., and has two children. Charles Hemphill Crawford married Aneta Ehrman, Colon, Panama, niece of the governor. Eleanor Crawford, Greenville, S. C., married her cousin, Hamilton C. Jones, and has two children, Hamilton C., Jr. and Eleanor Katharine. Arthur M. Crawford, Aiken, S. C., married Bettie Jones and has one son, Arthur M., Jr., C. Virginia, William and Herbert Crawford were

not married. Going back to the children of Mary Erwin Hardy, Anne Geddings Hardy married twice: first, a lawyer of New Orleans; and second, Edward Smith Tennent, Wilmington, N. C., and lives in Spartanburg, S. C.; she has two children, Harriette Taylor, A.M. graduate of Columbia University, New York, a teacher in the Spartanburg High School, and Edward Smith Tennent, Jr., a graduate of Wofford College, cotton textile manufacturer. Jane Elizabeth Hardy became Sister Rachel in the Convent of St. Mary, Peekskill, N. Y. She lived many years at Kemper Hall, Kenosha, Wis., where she recently died. Daisy Chalmers Hardy married Arthur C. Jones, of Jackson, Miss., and has two children: Arthur C. Jones, 2226 Westminister Place, Charlotte, N. C., who married Hortense Lipscomb; and Hamilton C. Jones, Jr., who married Eleanor Crawford and has two children, Hamilton C. III, and Eleanor Katherine, and lives in Greenville, S. C. Mary Erwin and Catherine Gauthier Hardy, twins, died in infancy.

Jason Carson Erwin received an appointment from Mississippi in the United States Naval Academy, and after graduation was assigned to the old war vessel, *Mediterranian*. He married Alvie Mop, a daughter of Colonel H. K. Mop. They had one son, Hal, who went west after the death of his parents.

William Erwin studied law and became the law partner of General Tom Hindman at Helena, Ark., who was Brigadier General of the Arkansas troops in the Southern Confederacy. William Erwin raised a regiment of Arkansas soldiers and served under General Price. Mr. Smith says of him: "No braver man ever lived," and cites several of his daring deeds and exploits in the war, showing his courage and bravery. After the war he married the widow of Colonel McGarock of Osceola, Ark., and left one daughter, Georgia, who married Hail Wiggs, Memphis, Tenn. They have three children, namely, Erwin, Robert and Grider, 1952 Court Ave., Memphis.

Stanhope Erwin was killed in the battle of Chickamauga, while charging a battery.

Samuel Erwin was also killed in the War Between the States. He married Elizabeth Mop, daughter of Howel Mop, of Virginia, and they had five children, namely: Mary and Harry, both deceased; and James, Corrie and Fannie, who lived at Darlington, La.

2. Sarah Carson married, about 1835, Dr. James Robertson, a son of Dr. Felix Robertson, who was a son of the founder of Nashville, Tenn., and the first white child born in Middle Tennessee. He miraculously escaped death by the Indians. Dr. James Robertson lived only a short time after his marriage, and left one son, Felix Robertson, who lived at Port Vincennes, La. Sarah Erwin, some years after Dr. Robertson's death, married Mr. Horace Keating, of Boston, Mass., a civil engineer, who laid off the railroad from Vicksburg to Jackson. They removed to New Orleans, and lived there until the death of Mr. Keating, when she bought the old Benton plantation in Helena Parish, La., and lived there until her death. After the death of her brother, Samuel Erwin, she took five of his children and reared them. She was known and loved for her good works and altruistic service. Felix Robertson (1834-1906) married Cornelia Spiller (1833-1906). They had five daughters, namely: Leila, Pattie, Lula, Fannie and Cornelia. Leila married John Spiller, her cousin, and has five children: Ann, Percy, Thomas, Felix and Eby. Pattie married John Opdenweyer, and they have two children, Leila and John. Fannie married Frank Opdenweyer, and has one child, Thelma. Cornelia married Mr. Eby, with no children

reported. All lived at Prairieville, Ascension Parish, La., except Lula, who lives at White Castle, La.

3. James Carson was killed in the Mexican War at Buena Vista. He never married.

4. Samuel Carson: (Little is reported concerning him.) He left five children, namely: Jimmie, Mary, Harry, Fannie and Carrie. Jimmie Carson married Jennie Mathews Adams, a descendant of President John Quincy Adams and a relative of President Andrew Jackson, which shows that the Cowdens have united their blood stream with some famous people; but the above lady of such famous connections wrote in a letter to a relative that one does not live long in memory through a reflected glory, and what glory we have must be glory that we have earned; however, it must be a pardonable human pride to be related to two presidents. Jimmie Carson and wife had eight children, namely: William Henry, Edna Earl, Glenn Mathews, Mary Meta, Adele Tardner, Willie Elizabeth, Erwin Devan and James Loyd, as reported in 1824. Meta was reported married to H. A. Arnett. The address of these Carsons was Chipola, La. Fannie Carson married Frank Heap. They have seven children, Jimmie, Carrie, Bertha, Frank; Lena and Edgar. Carrie married Thomas Catha. Bertha Heap married Robert Varnadorn. Jimmie Heap married India Adams. Carrie Carson married Robert Little. They have no children.

5. Mary Carson: (No report on her descendants.)

6. Emily Hawkins Carson married James M. Smith, of Maryland, who was employed in the Land Office of Mississippi, and was also the business manager of her aunt, Mrs. Calvit, with whom she lived. Their son, Washington J. Smith, gathered much of the family data of this branch of the Cowden family. He was a very intelligent, interesting man, educated in a college at Bardstown, Ky., which was one of the best schools of his day, and attended by many Southerners. He was the oldest child, born at Clinton, Miss., 1839, and married Anne Bellamy in 1869, a member of an old Southern aristocratic family. He died at Lake Village, Ark., in 1924, leaving eight children, as follows: Lotus (Edwarda); Annie Croom, who married Elwood Philips, of St. Louis, and had one son, Edwin Elwood (dec'd); Madelene Harold, who died unmarried; Emily Hawkins, who died in infancy; Eugene Guidare, who died in childhood; Mary Carson, who died unmarried; Elizabeth Whitfield, who married Cheatham A. Dennis, of Memphis, Tenn., and died leaving no children; Alice Keys, who died in childhood. Edwarda, called Lotus, because she was born in 1867, during the overflow of the Mississippi River, who married Mr. Gayden Drew, a relative of Governor Drew of Arkansas, is a handsome, charming woman, and is the only one of her father's family that has living children, who are as follows: Madeline, Howard, and Gayden. She lives at Lake Village, Ark., R. 2.

Elizabeth Smith, second child of James M. Smith and Emily Hawkins Carson, married, first, U. S. Boone, Jefferson City, Mo., by whom she had two sons, H. D. Boone and U. S. Boone, Jr., who was a physician of St. Louis; and, second, she married Edward M. Eastman, of New Orleans, by whom she had three children, Phineas, Kate, and Edith. Edith, after her mother's death, was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Caston, Dallas, Texas, and Kate is a gifted teacher in Covington, La.

Caroline Carson Smith (1846-1924) married Thaddeus Mulles, Winter City, Miss. (No children.)

Emily Hawkins Smith (1867-1931) married, first, Samuel Smith, Winter City, Miss., and had one child; she married, second, Frank Steater, Memphis, Tenn. Her daughter, Leise Lee Jones, married W. Arthur MacDuff, and lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and has two children, Emily Jane and Frank Arthur.

James M. Smith, Jr. (1848-1880) died unmarried.

ELIZABETH COWDEN

Elizabeth Cowden (1782-1860), the daughter of Captain James Cowden, married Judge Obidiah Jones in Burke County, N. C., in 1802. While Judge Jones was only an "in-law" Cowden, the Cowdens feel a family pride in him which justifies the following sketch of his life: He became an orphan in early childhood, and was reared by Judge Knight, a justice and lawyer of Burke County, N. C.; and after studying law he became law partner of Judge Knight. He later moved with the tide of emigration west into Georgia, and lived and practised law in the counties of Wilkes, Elbert, and Oglethorpe, as they were cut off and formed into counties, which he represented in the State Legislature. While in Georgia he was associated with and made friends of many prominent Georgia men, such as W. H. Crawford, Tom Meriweather, Abram Walker, etc., after whom he named sons. In 1812 he was appointed Federal Judge of the Mississippi territory, and in 1807 Federal Judge of the Illinois territory, which included all the territory from the Great Lakes to Tennessee; and in 1809 he was returned to the Mississippi territory, which included most of the southern states. He removed to Madison County, Ala., into the section that is now Limestone County on Elk River, where they built their home, named "Spring Hill," but now known as the Mapleton Stock Farm. He lived here until his death in 1825, being at that time Judge of the Superior Court of Alabama, and was buried on his estate in Alabama at Cave Spring. The record of his life and work is written up in the archives of Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, and the Halls of Fame of these states have asked for his picture. He was truly a great man, who served his day and generation with credit and distinction, being known as "Honest Obidiah."

After the death of Judge Jones, his wife, Elizabeth Cowden Jones, sold the home and land in Alabama, and removed with her sons to De Soto County, Miss. Judge Jones was given twelve sections of land in Mississippi by the government for his service as Judge of that territory, which he divided among his children, who moved to this land. Mrs. Jones died at the home of her

daughter, Mrs. Roberts, and was buried in a vault there; but after the home, "Grass Lawn," passed out of the hands of the family, the owners wanted the grave removed, so she was taken to Jackson, Miss., and was reinterred in the lot by the side of her daughter, Mrs. Roberts, and Dr. Roberts. Her children and descendants are as follows: Albert William, James, who died young, Thomas Meriweather, Emily Elizabeth, William H. Crawford, and Walker.

1. Albert William Jones (1803) was a handsome man of education and culture, and gifted as a writer and speaker. He married, first, Caroline Lindley, the daughter of Jacob Lindley, founder of the University of Ohio, who was the first cousin of Philip Lindley, of Nashville, Tenn., the founder of the University of Nashville, now George Peabody College for Teachers. Where a Lindley has gone education has gone. They had two children: a boy, who died in childhood, and a daughter, Anna Lou, a very gifted and remarkable woman. She was a musician, reader and impersonator of unusual talent and an artist in handiwork of all kinds, although she was an invalid for most of her life; however, she lived to be over seventy. She never married. After the death of his first wife, Albert Jones married again, and had a daughter, untraced, and two sons, Walter and Percy, also untraced.

2. Emily Elizabeth Jones (1807-1884), a tall, strikingly handsome woman with a long and heavy suit of georgious, dark auburn hair, married, after her education in Washington, D. C., Dr. Hiram A. G. Roberts (1805-1870). They left Alabama and removed to Mississippi, settling on a plantation in Hinds County on the old Vernon and Clinton road. They afterwards removed down on the coast, where they died and were buried, in Jackson. They had two sons, Percy and Calvit.

Alexander Percy Roberts (1833-1898) "was the handsomest man I ever saw," wrote Mr. Smith. He was a lawyer in New Orleans for thirty-three years, and stood at the top of the bar, representing many large corporations, such as the Pullman Company. He married Mary Shipwith (1839-1916), of Jackson, Miss., who was a granddaughter of General Nathaniel Green, of the Revolutionary War, and a very beautiful and accomplished woman. They left no children. They are buried in Jackson.

Calvit Roberts (1835), named for his aunt, Sarah Cowden Calvit, married Sarah Talliafero, daughter of Peabody Talliafero, of Copiah County, Miss. Their plantation was twenty miles from Hazlehurst. Calvin Roberts was a major in the War Between the States, commander of the seven-star battery in many battles. He served throughout the war, and was always attended by his faithful body servant, Howard Divinity, who, after the close of the war, was a well-known character at all the Confederate Reunions, where he, covered with shiny trophies, entertained the old soldiers with his exploits of foraging and chicken stealing. He was ninety-three at his last reunion in Memphis. Mr. and Mrs. Calvit Roberts had three daughters and one son. The son, Hiram Talliafero Roberts (1861), married a Spanish beauty in Mexico, removed to Cuba, and had a son, Alexander M. Roberts who lives in Havana at 25 Zena St., and a daughter, Conchita Osorio, who lives in Mexico City. Mary P. Roberts (1865) married Z. T. Cox and lived at Birney, Mont., whose children are as follows:

Percy Roberts Cox, Augusta, Mont.; Richard Taylor Cox, Passaic, Wyo.; Edwin Allen Cox and Talliafero Cox, Birney, Mont. Emily Elizabeth Roberts (1867) married a Mr. Alderson, whose children are Floyd Talliafero Alderson, a movie star, Hollywood, Cal; Allen Roberts Alderson, Birney, Mont.; and Irving Newman Alderson, Birney, Mont. Sarah A. Roberts (1871) married Mr. Hackley and lives at Hatch, N. Mex., whose children are Forest Logan Hackley, lawyer, Indianapolis, Ind.; Calvit Hackley and Myron Hackley, U. S. Navy, San Diego, Cal. Alexander White Roberts (1838-1887) married Mary Bliss Davenport (1842-1915), and lived at Port Gibson, Miss. Their children are Davenport, who married Marie Dominick, Gulfport, Miss., and has two children, Alex. Davenport and Elizabeth; Sarah Roberts, who married Bernard Roney, Gulfport, Miss., and has one child, Bliss Davenport; and Mary Percy Roberts, who married Finley B. Hewes, Gulfport Miss., and has two children, Findley B., Jr., and Mary Bliss.

3. Thomas Merriweather Jones (1806-1862), named for Governor Merriweather of Georgia, married Joanna Lindley (1813-1898) in 1833, in Athens, Ala. She was a sister of Carolina Lindley, who married his brother, Albert W. Jones, and a daughter of Jacob Lindley, founder of the University of Ohio, whose history has been published by Mr. John M. Lindley of Winnfield, Ia. The Lindley family was one of the leading families of America, having descended from Governor Albert Treat of Connecticut, and others of high standing and influence. They had seven children, namely: Lutellus Lindley, Emily Roberta, Rufus L. Homieradrien, Clayton R., Thomas Merriweather, Jr., Jacob Lindley and James Oliver.

Lutellus Lindley Jones (1836-1914) married Martha Elizabeth Coghill (1839-1874), in Hernando, Miss., in 1839. She was tall and slender with dark hair and eyes, sweet disposition, and an excellent musician. Lutellus Jones was a captain in the War Between the States, and served throughout the war with bravery and distinction. By his first wife, Martha Coghill, he had eight children, namely: Nina, Frederick Coghill, Arthur Merriweather, Carro Roberto, Lutellus Lindley, Thom Willie May, Martha Elizabeth and Rebecca; and by his second wife, Ella Ellis, he had six children, namely: Joanna Goebel, Ella, Annie Oliver, Marett, Glenn and Cleo. Nina Jones married Abner Nichols, Eudora, Miss., and had three sons: Arthur, who died in childhood; Irby Coghill, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, B.A., University of Illinois, A.M., Ann Arbor, Ph.D., and now professor of mathematics at the University of Louisiana, and president of the Southern Division of the Mathematical Society of the United States. He married Pauline Wright, daughter of Mrs. Patrick Henry Wright, Jr., a descendant of the Washingtons of Virginia. They have three children, Pauline, Nina and Irby Coghill, Jr. James Lutellus Nichols, third son of Nina Jones and Abner Nichols, a B. A. graduate of the University of Mississippi and M.D. of Vanderbilt University, is a practicing physician at Alligator, Miss. He has been twice married and has one son by his last wife, James Lutellus, Jr.

Frederick Coghill Jones, oldest son of Lutellus Lindley Jones and Martha E. Coghill, married October 30, 1887, Vannie DeHay of Okolona, Miss. Mrs. Vannie DeHay Jones is the gatherer and compiler of the data in this chapter on the descendants of Captain James Cowden, to whom all members of this branch of the Cowden family owe a great debt of gratitude for her long and arduous labors on these family records. They have three children, namely:

Fredericka, DeHay and Frederick Halbert. Fredericka, educated at St. Agnes, Memphis, Tenn., St. Rose, Greenville, Miss., and St. Cecelia, Nashville, Tenn., and in music and expression at the Conservatory, Cincinnati, Ohio, married on the 29th of June, 1910, Dr. Homer Douglas Vardaman, dental surgeon, of distinguished lineage from many of the first families of Virginia. They have one child, Homer Douglas, Jr., who is a student at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala. DeHay Jones died in childhood, a wonderfully gifted child, handsome, lovable disposition, intellectual and of great promise as a writer, poet and musician. Frederick Halbert Jones, a graduate of A. & M. College, Miss., and post-graduate of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., married Mazie Day Jackson April 5, 1924.

Arthur Merriweather Jones, second son of Lutellus Lindley Jones, married Josephine Eldridge, of Hillhouse, Miss. They have one son, Arthur Eldridge, who married Mary Jane Gillet and has one child, Arthur Merriweather.

Carro Roberta Jones, daughter of Lutellus Lindley Jones, married Edward Turner, Eudora, Miss.; they have three children, namely: Edward Blunt, Bynum and Martha. Edward Blunt Turner, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, is cashier of the Bank of Commerce, Memphis, Tenn. He married Ann Ruth Crenshaw. They had one child, Ruth. Bynum Turner married Denora Thomas, and has six boys, Joseph Edward, Floyd, Thomas Bynum, Jr., Oliver Blunt, Frank Bond and George. Martha Turner, a graduate of Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn., is unmarried.

Lutellus Lindley Jones II married Louise Anderson and has one child, Lutellus Lindley Jones III, who is married and lives at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Martha Elizabeth Jones, daughter of Lutellus Jones I, married Frank Bond, Benoit, Miss. They had no children.

Nellie May Jones died in childhood, and Rebeca Jones, youngest child, died in infancy.

The children of Lutellus Lindley Jones I by his second wife are as follows: Ella Jones married Arthur William Hawks, of Memphis and Fort Worth, Texas, and has two children, Alice Uzzell, who married Leonard Hamilton, and Arthur William, Jr., unmarried. Annie Oliver Jones married George William Bouche and has two children, Edward Beverly, who married Mary Sue Robertson and Martha Lindley, who married Wm. C. Dotson, Memphis, Tenn. Marette Jones married Adolphus Oswalt and has one son, Glenn Ellis. Glen Jones married Miss Harris and lives in Hughes, Ark. Cleo Jones married Thomas Beverly Bouche, and has one daughter, Carolyn Lutella. Joanna Goebel Jones died in infancy.

Returning to the children of Thomas Merriweather Jones: Emma Roberta Jones married Rev. Page, of the Methodist Church, who died of yellow fever in Greenville, Miss., contracted from nursing the sick. Mrs. Page died later in Memphis. They had the following children: Roberta and Joanna, both of whom died young, and Thomas Merriweather, who died in 1902.

Rufus L. Homeiradrian Jones, a soldier in the War Between the States, married Carolina Anderson, of Whitehaven, Miss., and had one child, Walter L. Homieradrian, who lives in Texas.

Clayton R. Jones, also a soldier in the same war, married, first, Pink McMahon (no children), and second, Irene Buckanan, and had two children: Maud, a brilliant graduate of M. S. U. and a teacher in a college; and Lindley,

now dead, who was a successful business man of Memphis, who married Bessie Boice and had two children, a son who died young, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

Thomas Merriweather Jones, Jr., after having served throughout the War Between the States under General Forrest, having enlisted at the age of sixteen and risen to the rank of lieutenant, studied medicine at Charleston, S. C. and Baltimore, Md., and as interne in New Orleans. He married Sarah Louis Boone, daughter of Joseph Boone and Sarah Oliver, of Hernando, Miss. Their children were Sarah Boykin, Elwin Thorton and Josephine Goebel. Meta Boykin Jones married Charles Reagan Robertson, of Hernando, Miss., now a lawyer and journalist of New York City. They had one child, Charlotte, who married Alfred Baruth, a professor in Columbia University. Elwyn Thorton Jones married Sarah Elizabeth Tappan, of Helena, Ark. (No children.) Josephine Goebel Jones married Leslie Darden, lawyer, editor of *DeSoto Times*, and member of Mississippi Senate, but now dead. He left two children, Thomas Leslie, graduate of University of Mississippi, and Elwyn, address, Hernando, Miss.

4. William H. Crawford Jones (1809), son of Elizabeth Cowden Jones and named for a great man of Georgia, was a tall, strong, fine-looking man, and married Sarah F. Jackson, of Athens, Ala.; they lived at Hernando, Miss. They had the following children: Mary Elizabeth (1838); Dudley Hawkins (1839); Hiram Roberts (1841); Alice Jackson (1845), who died young; Tatham Jackson (1846), who died young; and Crawford (1848). Mary Elizabeth Jones married Henry Latham and had two daughters, Lucy Edna and Mary Elizabeth. Lucy Edna Latham married J. M. Higham, Memphis, Tenn., and had two children, John W., who was killed in the World War, and Mildred, who married Claude C. McBride and has one son, Claude, Jr. Mary Elizabeth Jones Latham married a second time, William Daniel, and had two children, Willie C., who died in early life, and Velma Bell, who married Harry C. Schaper, Memphis, Tenn., and has one child, Lois Louise. Dudley Hawkins Jones married Sarah Godfrey and had two children, Sample Godfrey, who was a soldier in the Spanish American War, and married Grace Walters, Yazoo City, Miss., and had one daughter, and Dudley, who married and lived in Birmingham. Crawford Jones, Jr., married Belle Z. Gore and had three children, Merle Dudley, Vivian Crawford and Jeffie Word. Merle Dudley Jones married Berry Bryan, Fort Smith, Ark., and has three children, Lemuel Campbell, Merle Arabella and Josephine Jackson. Vivian Crawford Jones married Ashley Johnson, Fort Smith, Ark. (No children.) Jeffie Word Jones died in childhood.

5. Dr. Walker Jones, youngest son of Elizabeth and Judge Obidiah Jones, was so much like his father that he was called "Little Father." He married in Hampstead County, Ark., and had three children, James Cowden, Emma and Obidiah. All died without issue.

CHAPTER IV

TEXAS COWDENS

SAMUEL COWDEN

By a process of elimination of other lines, and from court records, we are reasonably sure that Samuel Cowden was the ancestor of the Texas Cowdens; in fact, there is no other that appears in Colonial history from whom they could have descended. Samuel Cowden settled in Augusta County, Va., near Staunton, before 1763, when he and his wife, Martha, are recorded as buying land on Black Creek of Middle River in Beverly Manor, which seems to have been part of an island in the river, and which they sold in 1773. His name appears frequently in court records as party to suits and real estate transfers. He seems to have been a merchant, and also engaged in farming. He and his wife, who was the Widow Martha Wilson, separated, after which he went to Mechlenburg County, N. C., where his brothers, Robert and Walter, had settled. His two sons, Walter and John, remained with their mother in Virginia until they were grown, when it appears from his will that they also came to North Carolina. His will, on record at Charlotte, N. C., is as follows:

"IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN! I Samuel Cowden being very sick but of perfect mind and memory doth make this my last will and testament viz.: First I order that all my just debts be paid together with my funeral expenses. I order and bequeath unto my brother Walter Cowden my horse and saddle and wearing apparel and what grain I have at Robert Harris's and what yarn belongs to me at my brother Robert Cowden's or Capt. Samuel Pickin's or elsewhere, and also the buckskins at William Wiley's.

I also bequeath unto my sons Walter and John Cowden begot on the body of Martha Wilson all and every part of my estate, only what is excepted, to be between them equally divided and enjoyed and possessed by them and their heirs. I also ordain and appoint my whole and sole executors my brother Walter Cowden and James Harris of Reedy Creek of this my last will and testament, and do revoke all former wills and testaments made by me. Signed by my hand and seal this 28th day of March, 1782. SAMUEL COWDEN.

Witnessed by John Harris, Robert Harris and Elizabeth Harris."

The above will was typical of pioneer days, and reveals much of interest. Note that the articles of food and clothing, which we today regard as trivial, they regarded of enough value to put into a will. Meat, that is, wild game, was plentiful, but grain was scarce and valuable, and the material for clothing, which was homemade of yarn and buckskins, was also very valuable. They lived a very simple, natural life with only the bare necessities; however, we today, with all our added comforts and luxuries and boasted civilization, are doubtless no happier.

As stated in a preceding chapter, I think the brothers mentioned in the above will, Samuel, Walter, and Robert, were the sons of James Cowden, Irish emigrant, who settled in Massachusetts about 1720-30. He had sons by the name of Samuel and Robert, who do not appear in the Revolutionary history of Massachusetts, which indicates that they had left the state. They were of the proper age to belong to this family, and there was an emigration of Cowdens from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania south at the time of the settling of these men in Virginia and North Carolina. Robert Cowden became the ancestor of the Alabama and Missouri Cowdens, whose genealogy and history are given in a separate chapter. This leaves Samuel or Walter as the ancestor of the Texas Cowdens; and, as we find no record of Walter's marriage, we conclude that Samuel must be their ancestor. The 1790 census report for Mechlenburg County, N. C., gives the Widow Cowden with two adult sons in her family, who were evidently the family of Samuel Cowden, and who doubtless moved to North Carolina after his death in 1782. As shown by his will, he left a wife and two sons, John and Walter. The Cowdens of Mechlenburg, N. C., later moved westward with the tide of emigration into Georgia, as shown by Georgia records; and John and Walter Cowden, or their children, must have settled in Newton County, where we find Cowdens living before 1825. These Cowdens were evidently the children of the above, because there are no other Colonial Cowdens from whom they could have descended, and there is not room or time for another generation between them and the above Cowdens, John and Walter. In all four lines of Southern Cowdens there have been eight generations down to the present, which are all that are possible or probable in the space of two hundred years. After these many generations there is still a striking resemblance between the descendants of Samuel and Robert Cowden. If you will compare the picture of Mr. Fred Cowden in this chapter with the pictures of Rev. M. F.

Cowden, John P. Cowden, etc., in Chapter V, descendants of Robert Cowden, you will see a striking facial resemblance, and they are also alike in stature, tall and slender.

While I have not been able to discover Samuel Cowden's military record in the War for Independence, there can be little doubt as to his connection and activity in the war. His two homes were in Augusta County, Va., and Mechlenburg County, N. C., both centers of American independence and revolution; and his close kinsmen, Captain James Cowden of Virginia, and Robert Cowden of North Carolina, were active leaders in the war, as were many other Cowdens of other states. His age, over fifty years at the beginning of the war, might have kept him from active service as a soldier; and his sons, Walter and John, were not of age, which might account for their not appearing in the military records; however, a thorough search has not been made of the Virginia and North Carolina records, which doubtless would show their formal connection and activity in the war.

The western emigration of the Cowdens that began in Scotland about three hundred years ago moved on steadily with the years, as the western frontier was opened up for habitation; and we find Cowdens always in the front lines of this march of civilization westward. When the last frontier was thrown open, the great plains of West Texas, the Llano Estacado of the West, the Cowdens were among the first to enter this section, stake out their claims, and erect their homes in Midland County; however, it took four generations of Cowdens to reach this far western point, about three thousand miles from where they first settled in this country in Augusta County, Va., and Mechlenburg County, N. C. We now undertake an account of this far western trek; however, we regret that we know so little of the thrilling details of the same. These western pioneers left no written records behind them. The only sources of information that we have, and which enabled us to follow their trail, are court records and tradition. Wherever the Cowdens stopped for any length of time they became property-owners and influential citizens, which has enabled us to follow their trail across the country. But the heroic struggles and adventures through wilderness and over plain to reach their new far-flung homes and their great labors in founding and building their homes and estates are largely sealed records of the past, sealed with the sweat of their brows and the tears of their eyes. Truly, "Others have labored, and ye are entered into their labor."

Georgia records show that some went to Newton County, Ga., and thence into Texas. The oldest Cowden deed on record in Newton County is a deed from David Cowden to Johnathan Cowden in 1825. David Cowden's purchase deed of this land is not on record, which, of course, is older, and doubtless considerably prior to 1825, when he sold it to his son, Johnathan Cowden. David Cowden must have been a son of either John or Walter Cowden, because there is not time for another generation between him and them. There is no record of either John or Walter Cowden's having been in Newton County, but this does not necessarily mean that they had not lived there. The family of Robert Cowden lived in three counties of Georgia, and the same might have been true of this family before coming to Newton County. Anyway, there is this gap between Mecklenburg County, N. C., and Newton County, Ga., and a link between John or Walter Cowden and David Cowden, which I have not been able to close by definite records; but there are no other Colonial Cowdens from whom David Cowden could have descended, as I have complete records of the other lines.

The records in Newton County show that David Cowden had two sons, Johnathan and William, and perhaps another son, David. A marriage license of David Cowden to Nancy Hancock in 1827 shows that he either had a son by that name, or it was his own second marriage. According to the age of his grandfather, Samuel Cowden, who was born in Ireland about 1730, David Cowden must have been born about 1775-80. He died in Newton County, Ga., in 1844, as is shown by an inventory and appraisement of his estate by his administrator, William Thompson. Johnathan and William Cowden married sisters, Mary and Lucinda Watson. William's marriage to Lucinda was December 29, 1822; but for some reason Johnathan's marriage is not on record in Newton County, so he doubtless married earlier and in another county. I have very little information about the descendants of William Cowden. He had five children, namely: Dr. Johnathan, who married Mary Ferguson; David, who died in the Mexican War; John Henry, Amanda, who married Milton Wood; and Mary Ann, who married Mr. Fowl. William and Johnathan Cowden sold their land in Newton County in 1829, and must have moved to some place in Alabama, as their sons entered the Mexican War from that state; and some of their descendants are still in Alabama.

Johnathan Cowden died early in life, leaving three sons, William Hamby, George Franklin, and John, the youngest being eight years of age at his death. His widow, Mary Watson Cowden, afterwards married Dr. Germany, of Augusta, Ga., by whom she had four children, namely: James, who did not marry; Alvira, who married James Nesbit; Ann Maria, who married Mr. Cowan; and Sarah, who married Mr. Pope, a lawyer of Gadsden, Ala., and lives there now. After the death of Dr. Germany, Mary Watson Cowden was married a third time to Mr. Maybrand, a lawyer of Georgia; but they soon separated, and she afterwards lived with the Wynns. John Cowden married Elizabeth Bledsoe, and reared his family in Georgia, where he remained. He had two daughters, Martha Ann and Mary Anne. Martha Ann married Dr. F. T. Holly, of South Carolina, and had six children, three boys and three girls, whose names I do not know. Mary Anne married Wm. B. Wynn, and had six children, whose names also I do not know.

The remainder of this chapter has to do with the other two sons of Johnathan Cowden, William Hamby and George Franklin, and their descendants in Texas. While I know their lives and characters only from mental observation in following them in their pioneer trek from Georgia to West Texas, it seems to me that for strength of body, indomitable will, sheer courage and business ability, they surpassed all the Cowdens of whom I have any knowledge. In this day of ease and luxury and fast transportation by train, motor cars and aeroplanes, it is hard for us to visualize and evaluate the lives and characters of these frontiersmen, because they lived in a world that has passed, of which we today know little or nothing. They were born into the frontier life in Georgia, and they followed the frontier from there to the last outpost in West Texas. While Texas was peopled and settled by thousands of such pioneer characters, to whom equal credit and great honor are due, yet this should not dull nor obscure the admiration and honor of Cowdens for these two heroic frontiersmen, William Hamby and George Franklin Cowden, of whom all Cowdens should be proud, and especially their descendants.

Losing their father in their young boyhood, they were thrown on their own responsibility early in life, and had to make their own way from the beginning. They had the true spirit of adventure and patriotism, which led them into the Mexican War, in which one of them, George Franklin, became a captain. After enlisting as soldiers, they marched from Alabama to New Orleans,

and sailed in the army of General Winfield Scott to Vera Cruz, where the fighting began under Robert E. Lee and others. They took part in the battles from there on to Mexico City, and doubtless had their share in all the victories. On their return through Texas to Alabama they saw the wide open spaces and fertile prairies of West Texas with their undeveloped resources and opportunities, which caused them to return. It is said that, when the boundless west gets into one's soul, he is never satisfied with the narrow confines of the east. I had a cousin who spent his life in moving back and forth to and from Texas. He could not make a living there; yet he could not stay satisfied here. But these two Cowdens, notwithstanding their hardships and poverty, went and stayed. They did not return to Alabama, but pressed on farther west as the frontier was opened. They made three moves of about three hundred miles each, and each time onward toward the setting sun, and that, too, in covered wagons and prairie schooners that crept like snails over the boundless, burning plains. We can hardly conceive of the strength, courage and endurance of these heroic frontiersmen. I can understand better the spirit and plight of the man from our old neighborhood, who moved in the early days to the swamps of Arkansas, and after a year or two of fever and starvation, moved back. On his way back, as it was unusual to see one moving east, he grew tired of answering the people's questions as to where he was going, so he painted on the cover of his wagon these words: "Last year I moved to Rackensack; and now, b'George, I'm rackin' back." But these two Cowden men did not rack back, but on.

They stopped first in the border county of Texas, Shelby, where they lived from 1847 to 1856, and then moved on to Palo Pinto County, out where the real west begins, and lived there until 1883-6. While living here the War Between the States came on, and, though too old for active service, they became members of the Home Guard. When the Texas and Pacific Railroad was finished to Fort Worth in 1880, and gave promise of being extended on through the great plains of the west, these two Cowden families began to make their plans for moving farther west; and in 1883 they moved away out into the center of the great Llano Estacada, and settled in Midland County, where the prairies are so level and clear of trees that the sun appears to rise out of a mirage ocean and set in a distant sea. You can ride all day on the train, and you cannot tell from the appearance of the country that you have moved, or at least that is the way

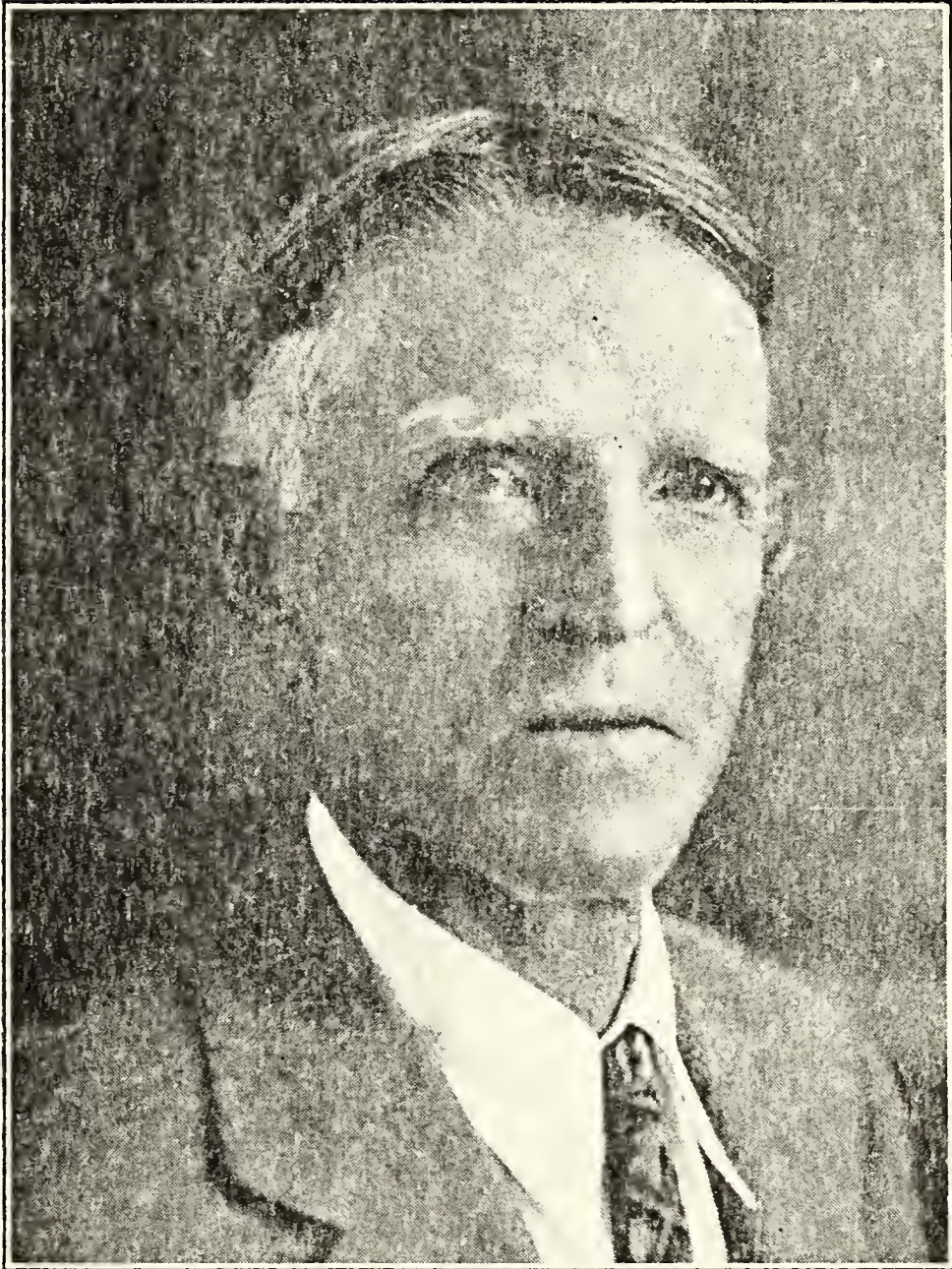
it appeared to me. A man with his family from my old neighborhood in Middle Tennessee, who lived in a thickly settled section of the hills of Tennessee, which were covered with dense forests, and where cold, refreshing springs abounded, moved to this section of Texas in the early days; but next year, to the great surprise of his friends, he returned to his old home in Tennessee, saying that he would not live where there were neither woods, water, nor people. Another neighbor wrote back that they had been down thirty miles after a barrel of drinking water; yet notwithstanding there were neither woods, water, nor people where these two Cowden families stopped and staked out their claims, yet they stayed and built their homes and fortunes. When William Hamby Cowden and George Franklin Cowden came to Midland, "they had nothing except the shirts on their backs and many children," as one of their grandsons expressed it. This being the cattle country of Texas, where pasture abounded the year around, they opened their ranches, stocked them with cattle, and by hard work, strict economy, and good judgment and management, and with a broad vision of the possibilities of the plains, they greatly prospered. I visited Midland about twelve years ago, and it seemed to me that the Cowdens owned all the surrounding country and a large proportion of the town. Both of the fathers were then dead; but I met several of the sons in each family, who impressed me as men of ability and character. If I had any idea then that I would undertake later to write the history of the Southern Cowdens, as I am now doing, I would have found out more about them, and been able now to write more intimately and correctly of them, and pay a truer and greater tribute to their worth and success in life, which, I feel sure, they richly deserve. They are among the leading ranchmen and stockmen of the west, specializing in fine stock and beef cattle. They are also bankers, oil-well owners, and executives of large businesses in many lines; but, withal, they are modest and reserved. I hoped to find myself closer kin to them than I am; in fact, our lines do not come together until we get back to our emigrant ancestors in Ireland; yet I feel a family pride in their success and worth. They have spread out from Midland in almost every direction, and there are representatives of the family today in many of the cities of West Texas, engaged in successful and leading businesses and devoted to the highest and best interests of state and church and society in general. We give below the genealogy and location

of these families, as reported by Elliott F. Cowden and Mrs. W. H. Cowden, as follows:

WILLIAM HAMBY COWDEN

William Hamby Cowden was a typical pioneer, sufficient of himself for all needs. He was a man of strong native ability and many parts. He must have studied medicine or achieved it by observation and practice. He always carried medicine in his saddle bags, which he prescribed for the sick, set broken bones, and delivered babies. He married first Caroline Liddon, by whom he had twelve children, and second her sister, Katherine Liddon, but there were no children from this marriage. His descendants are as follows:

1. Mary Jowell Cowden married Zeph Bell. No children.
2. Willie Jane Cowden (dec'd), married Jerry Jowell and had four children as follows: Spencer, Hettie, Callie and Leta (dec'd). Spencer married Mayme Holt and had three children; Myrl, who married Ione Young, one child, Raymond Braxton; Hallie Rhea, who married Orin Collins and had three children, James Spencer; Kathlyn and Patritia; Holt married Lillie B. Williams, no children. Hettie married John W. Puckett and had six children: J. W., Jr.; Ione, who married J. E. McAllister, no children; Gladys, who married Jack Jones, three children, names not reported; Callie married Ben F. Scott, two children, names not reported; Margaret; and Jack. Callie Jowell married Charles Edwards, whose children are Lorene, Jerra, Charles, Jr., and Mary Lou (dec'd); Lorene married Jerry Eugene Cowden, whose children are Jerry Eugene, Harry Jowell, George Edwards, William Henry, and Charles Gilbert.
3. William Henry Cowden (1853), San Antonio, Tex., married Mary Salvage, from which union eleven children were born as follows: Hallie, who married James S. Day, no children; Jax M., who married Josephine Leach and has four children, Susan, who married Charles Poteet, Jax M., Jr., Dorothy, and Hallie Jean; Bernice, who married G. W. Adams and has three children; George, Jr., Jax Cowden, Mary Frances (dec'd); Ramond Francis (dec'd); Henry Brunson (dec'd); Gilbert Hamby, who married Idabel Gray and has one child, William Thomas; William Hart, who married Grace Evans and has five children, Mary Kate (dec'd), Grace Evans (dec'd), Josephine Ann, Nell, and W. H., III; Benjamin Liddon, who married Minnie Jones and has two children, Robert Means and Mary Louise; Jerry Eugene, who married Lorene Edwards and has five children, Jerry Eugene, Jr., Harry Jowell, George Edwards, William Henry, and Charles Gilbert; George, who married Frances Williard Coleman and has three children, Frances Elizabeth, George Malcolm and Mary Jane; Mary Frances, who married Ivan Stoker and has three children, Frances Kenyon, infant (dec'd), and Hallie Day.
4. George Edcar Cowden (dec'd), Fort Worth, Tex., married Minnie Dysart, and had four children: Ertha (dec'd); Lillie, who married Dr. Burleson Staton and has four children, Lillie, Ruth, George and Burleson; Grace, who married R. P. Henry and has two children, Cowden and Ruth; Grover Cleveland, who married Annie Lee Newton and has one child, Dorothy.
5. John Motherwell Cowden (dec'd), Midland, Tex., married Lillie Parham Moore and had six children: Claude Flautt, who married Berry Jones and has one adopted child, John M.; Ida Lee, who married Lee Evans and has three children, Johnnie (dec'd), Pauline, and Mary Joe; Kittie Clyde, who married Charles Carpenter and has two children, Charles, Jr. and Kittie; Mary Kate, who married Rube Evans and has two adopted children, Caroline and Mary Anne; Robert Edwin, who married Jett Baker and has one child, Julia Nan; and Roll Bell, who married Fay Tynes and has one adopted child, Barbara.
6. Charles Webster Cowden (dec'd), Abilene, Tex., married Liddie Lewis and had five children: Clarence, who married first Corda Rushing, who had two children, C. W., Jr. and Helen, and second Corinne Connell, who has four children, Calvin,



W. Fred Cowden, Midland, Texas

Bert, Constance and Corinne; Carrie, who married Cross Peyton and has one child, Paralee; Annie Lee, who married Walter Manley and has one child, Paralee Dixon; Birdie, who married Marvin Spalding and has two children, Evelyn and Annie Bird; and Lela, who married Thomas Brownlee and has one child, Thomas, Jr.

7. Katherine Cynthia Cowden (1862) (dec'd), married her cousin, William Berry Wynne, son of Mary Ann Cowden Wynne, and had six children: Berry Cowden, who married Irene Burks, no children; Rorie Liddon (Jake), who married Ruth Schneider, no children; Lona Oneita, who married Thomas M. Lane, one adopted child, Wm. Marshall; Annie Lee, who married James B. Chilcoat and has two children, William James and Katherine Pearl; William Joseph, who married Sue Viola Taylor, no children; William Cowden (dec'd); and Katherine Cynthia.

8. Nannie Liddon Cowden (dec'd).

9. Annie Lee Cowden (1864), Fort Worth, Tex., married Archie Frank Crowley and had the following children: Robert E., who married Ellett Randle and has four children, names not reported; Frankie Lee, who married W. L. Davis, one child, name not reported; Leta Frankie, who married Ben Young, no children; William Judson (dec'd); Charles E. (dec'd); Archie Edna, who married Arthur S. Bird and has two children, Betty Ann and Louise Stratton; Allen F., who married Eva Yount and has two children, John Allen and Eva Jean; George Truett, who married Pearl Ezell and has two children, George Truett and Allen L.; and Blanch, who married Hiram Walter Johnson and has two children, H. W. Jr., and Robert Bird.

10. Liddon Cowden, Alamogordo, N. Mex., who married first Paralee Reece and had two children, Allen (dec'd), and Wyckliffe, who married ——— and has two children, Liddon Reese and Allen. Liddon Cowden married, second, Muriel Oliver and has four children, Katheryne, Evangeline, Muriel, who married James A. McNatt, and Faith.

11. Rorie Emmitt Cowden (dec'd), married Irene Black and had four children, Emmitt, Mozelle, Phelix and William.

12. Eugene Pellam Cowden, Midland, Tex., married Tennessee Moseley and has three children: Mary Lee, who married M. O. Means and has one child, Cole Cowden; Guy, who married Annie May Patterson and has three children, Gene Ann, Guy Thomas and Mary Lee; and Allen B., who married Ollie Vick and has one child.

GEORGE FRANKLIN COWDEN, SR.

George Franklin Cowden, Sr., married Elizabeth Whitesides, whose mother was a Hemphill, and had nine children, as follows:

1. Eliza Quintilla Cowden, El Paso, Texas, married Erbin Bell and has six children, namely: Lee, I. C., Ora, Ruth, Oscar and Charles K. Lee Bell, El Paso, Texas, married Eula Roundtree and has five children, namely: Frank, Selma Dawson, Ruth (dec'd), George Allen (player on Nashville baseball team), Robert, who married Juanita Richmond and has one child, Robert, Jr., and Eula Lee, who married Jack Whitaker, Waterloo, Iowa. I. C. Bell, Wichita Falls, Texas, married Minnie Black and has three children, Leora, Theron and Armond. Ora Bell married Billie Oden, Pecos, Tex., and has four children, namely: Irben, Floyd, Harvey and Joseph Wheeler (dec'd). Ruth Bell married Esten Shumate, El Paso, Texas, and has two children, Page and Esten. Oscar Bell, Wichita Falls, Texas, married Alice Carr, one of whose children is Dorothy Mae. Charles K. Bell, El Paso, Texas, married Ula Tolbert, and has one son, Charles Tolbert.

2. Johnathan Cowden (dec'd).

3. Mary Anne Cowden (dec'd) married James Laferty, and had three children, namely: Eula, Roberta and Frank. Eula Laverty married Hill Perry,

Spur, Texas, and has two children, Mary Roberta and James Hill. Robt Lavery married John Emerson, San Francisco, Calif., and has one child, John R. Frank Lavery is married and has twins, James Franklin and Opal Jean.

4. Martha Caroline Cowden (dec'd) married John Smith Straughan and had three children, namely: Gertrude Lee, Mary Posie and Henry Lanham. Gertrude Lee Straughan married Benjamin Bassel, San Francisco, Calif., and has three children, Mary Lou, Jack Straughan and Elizabeth. Mary Posie Straughan married Marshall Ferguson, Houston, Texas, and has one child, Mary Marshall. Henry Lanham Straughan, Midland, Texas, married Jessie Wilhite, and has one child, Henry Lanham, Jr.

5. W. Fred Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Mattie Courtney first, and Emma Long second. There were no children by the second wife but nine by the first, namely: Maud, Lucy, Ruth, Mamie, Freddie, J. Ellis, James Franklin, Essie and Geraldine. Maud Cowden married Bassel H. Blakeney, Midland, Texas, and has one child, Baby Ruth, who married Harvey Conger, Midland, Texas. Lucy Cowden married B. C. Girdley, Midland, Texas, and has two children, B. C., Jr. and James Frederic, who married Mrs. Juanita Wilson Jones, and has one child, Bobbie. Ruth Cowden married Clarence Scharbaner, Midland, Texas, and has two children, John Christopher (dec'd) and Clarence, Jr. Mamie Cowden married Homer W. Rowe, Midland, Texas (no children). Freddie Cowden married J. O. Nobles, Midland, Texas, and has four children, namely: Martha Louise, John Jr., Jack and Gerald. James Franklin Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Gladys Holt and has three children, James Franklin, Jr., Courtney Holt and Elizabeth Ann. J. Ellis Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Maede Taylor and has two children, Eddie Blanche and Mary Sue. Essie Cowden married Whit Stafford, Dallas, Texas (no children). Geraldine Cowden married Clifford Hill, Midland, Texas, and has one child, Francis.

6. Jefferson Davis Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Mollie Holcombe and has five children, namely: Herbert (dec'd), Vivian (dec'd), Noel, Luna and Alene. Vivian married Joe Barnett and had one child, Joe, Jr. Noel Cowden married Laombra Brown and has one child, Noel, Jr. Luna Cowden married Virgil Simpson and has two children, Kelly and Dorothy. Alene Cowden is unmarried.

7. George Franklin Cowden (dec'd) married Luna Wright and had four children, namely: Elliott F., Luna Fay, Stranghan (dec'd), and Clyde. Elliott F. Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Ida Fay Wooldridge and has two children, Wright Elliott and Ida Beth. Luna Fay Cowden married Harry J. Neblett, Midland, Texas. Clyde Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Jessie Hale and has two children, Clyde Franklin (dec'd) and Alma Fay.

8. J. Thomas Cowden (dec'd) married Effie Leck and had four children, namely: Leck, Wayne, Morris and Effie Mae. Leck Cowden, Abilene, Texas, married Mrs. Vaughn. Wayne Cowden, Lovington, N. Mex., married Ollie Gann. Morris Cowden, Truscott, Texas, married — and has one child, Patsy Payne. Effie Mae Cowden married Henry Smith, Abilene, Texas, and has one child.

9. E. Walter Cowden, Midland, Texas, married Eva Holcombe and has two children, Bessie and Walter Wye. Bessie Cowden married Jess C. Ward, Wichita Falls, Texas, and has three children, namely: Cowden Clark, Jess, Jr. and Mozelle.

CHAPTER V

ALABAMA AND MISSOURI BRANCHES

ROBERT COWDEN I

Robert Cowden settled in Mechlenburg County, N. C., about the same time or soon after his brother Samuel settled in Augusta County, Va. The United States pension records show that his son, Robert, was born there in 1754. As stated in a preceding chapter, I am inclined to think that he was a son of James Cowden, of Worcester, Mass, Irish emigrant to this country about 1728, as he was of the right age, and there was a Robert in this family. There was an emigration of the Cowdens south at this time. John Cowden, of Mathew Cowden's family, Lancaster County, Pa., moved to Rowan County, N. C., about 1760-65, who doubtless was led to settle in that section by Robert Cowden, who had preceded him to that section. His oldest deeds seem to have been destroyed, as I found only a late deed, dated 1782, for a small tract, lying between Coddle Creek and Rocky River, now Cabarrus County, which was cut off of the north of Mechlenburg County. This deed locates the place of his settlement and home, which could be easily found by going to that section.

His will on record at Charlotte, N. C., is very brief, and is as follows:

"In the Name of God, AMEN: I Robert Cowden of the County of Mechlenburg and State of North Carolina, being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory, blessed be God for it, and expecting my dissolution to be nigh, do make, ordain and publish this to be my last will and testament as follows: Imprimis, I order all my just debts to be paid: Item: I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Hannah all and everything that I am possessed of in this world. Lastly: I do constitute and appoint my beloved wife, Hannah Cowden and Edward Giles to be the executors of this my last will and testament by me made, and declare this and none other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 18th day of July, 1782.

Signed ROBERT COWDEN.

Witnessed by Edward Giles, Hannah Cowden and Elizabeth Giles.

He does not mention any of his children; and the only one that appears in later records was his son, Robert, who at the time of the writing of the above will was away in the Revolutionary War, and was perhaps the only child, or at least we have no record of any other. Concerning his war record we give the following from the Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C.:

"Robert Cowden was born January 20, 1754 in Mechlenburg County, N. C. While a resident of Lincoln County, N. C., he enlisted the last of January, 1776, and served two and one half months as a private under Captain Barber and Colonel Grimes in the North Carolina troops; in the summer, 1777, he served one month against the Cherokee Indians. He moved, in 1778, to South Carolina, and as private in Captain Clinton's Rifle Company under Colonel Neill, was in the battle of Stone; from January, 1780, three months under Captain Kincaid and Colonel Hawthorne; he was commissioned in April or May, 1780, lieutenant in Captain Howe's Company of light horse, and was in the battle of Rocky Mount; and from August, 1780, when Captain Howe was taken prisoner, he acted as captain of said company; was in the battles of Huger's Bridge, Fish Dam Ford, Black Stocks and other skirmishes, and served until August, 1782. Soldier moved in 1784 from South Carolina to Wilkes County, Ga., and resided three years, then moved to Elbert County, Ga., where he remained fourteen years, thence to Jackson County, Ga., and remained until 1811. He was allowed a pension on his application executed August 10, 1832, while a resident of Bedford County, Tenn. (now Marshall County), where he had moved from Georgia. Soldier referred to a family in 1780, but no names are stated."

The above is a record of which all Cowdens and especially the Cowdens of Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri, his descendants, should be proud. John P. Cowden, Village Springs, Ala., informs me further that he was shot from his horse in one battle, and his horse went on in the charge. He preserved his sword and belt to the time of his death, which tradition reports to have been very large, showing the size of the man. He must have been a man of giant strength, endurance and bravery. It seems that he imparted his fighting courage and patriotic loyalty to his descendants, as we find them in all succeeding wars of this country. His son, Elijah Cowden, was with Jackson in the War of 1812, being a member of the Tennessee Riflemen under General Coffee, to whom much credit for victory was ascribed. He fought in standing water around New Orleans, and was taken sick there with measles. His brother, William, went to New Orleans on horseback and brought him home. Several of Robert Cowden's descendants were in the War Between the States on the side of the Southern Confederacy, among whom were Robert D. Cowden, James Wilson Cowden, two sons and a son-in-law of Carol

Wilson Cowden, and two sons of William Cowden, all of whom except one were killed. Elijah M. Cowden volunteered for service in the Spanish-American War; and Glenn Cowden, James W. Cowden, and perhaps several others, served in the late World War, so there is no questioning the patriotic bravery and loyalty of this branch of the Cowden family.

The Revolutionary War soldier, Robert Cowden, married in North Carolina, February 6, 1777, Mary Alcorn, who was born April 1, 1757, and after living several years in North Carolina and Georgia moved in 1811 to what was then Bedford County, now Marshall County, Tenn., and settled on Duck River near Old Berlin, where Rock Creek and Sinking Creek flow into Duck River, which creeks are mentioned in deeds to land. He was among the first settlers of this section, and continued to live here until his death in 1841. The following is a copy of his will, taken from the county records, Lewisburg, Tenn.:

"In the name of God, AMEN. Finding myself being far advanced in years and calling to mind the mortality of my body and certainly death must be shortly awaiting me and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs for the satisfaction of myself and surviving family and viewing myself in my right mind, I allow all my property found in my hands at my death to be sold by my executors to the best advantage except my wearing apparel and my books. I then first and foremost allow all my just debts to be paid. I then leave Wm. Armon five dollars and to his son, Robert Cowden Armon, twenty dollars and to his daughter, Matilda Morton, ten dollars and also to his daughter, Mary Amberson, ten dollars I then leave to my son, Joseph D. Cowden all my wearing apparel, my books to come out amongst the legatees as I have marked them; and if any legatee or other person as the case may be has any trouble or difficulty in taking care of me before my death for which they have not been rewarded I allow that that debt be paid before the general division is made of the money arising from the sale of property and I allow my executors to settle for all notes found in my hands for money lent to legatees but not to call for interest on money lent by me to legatees. Then after settling with Wm. Armon's family make an equal divide of the balance of my estate between Joseph D. Cowden, William Cowden, Josiah Cowden, Elijah Cowden, Robert Cowden, Mary Helm and Synthia Fulerton and I do hereby constitute and appoint to be my acting executors my son Robert Cowden of Tennessee and my son William Cowden of Alabama on my above will.

April 20, 1836.

Signed, ROBERT COWDEN."

To the above-named children there appears in the family records sent in by James W. Cowden, of Estboga, Ala., the name of a daughter, Cahon Cowden, born in 1777, who was evidently dead at the time of the writing of the above will. From these records the following dates of births are taken: Joseph D., 1780;

William, 1782; Josiah, 1786; Elijah, 1790; Robert, 1792; Mary, 1795; and Cynthia, 1800. All of the above children came with their father to Marshall County, Tenn., but some remained there only a short time, and finally all moved away soon after the father's death in 1841. This accounts for our not knowing of this family of Cowdens until I discovered them in the county records. My ancestors, who were descendants of John Cowden, of North Carolina, settled in the southern part of Marshall County, and of course knew the family of Robert Cowden, as I find them as witnesses to each other's deeds, and were doubtless related, since they came from the same section of North Carolina, and followed each other to the same county in Tennessee; but I have not been able to establish the exact relation.

Joseph D. Cowden died in Marshall County. Mary Cowden married Thomas Helm and moved to Alabama, but I have no record of her descendants, if any.

ALABAMA COWDENS

Three members of Robert Cowden's family, namely, William, Elijah and Josiah, moved to Blount County, Ala.; William and Elijah settled in Murphree's Valley, a narrow valley extending northwest from Mt. Pinson to Oneonta, with low overhanging mountains on each side and a beautiful stream of water through the center. Along this creek the land is fertile and level, but there is not much of such land. Why they left Marshall County, Tenn., one of the richest and most beautiful sections of the South, for this section of Alabama, is not known. It might have been due to the slavery question. I find no record of any of Robert Cowden's family owning slaves, so his children may have moved from Marshall County, a strong pro-slavery section, into Missouri and the mountains of Alabama, where there were few or no slaves, and the people were anti-slavery; however, many of them fought on the side of the Southern Confederacy. They passed through this part of Alabama in Jackson's army enroute to New Orleans, and liked it for some reason, and after the war moved to it. I am inclined to think that they were drawn there by the game, which abounded in that section, and was of more consideration in those days than land. Family traditions relate many interesting accounts of killing bear, deer, wild turkey and all other game. Wolves also abounded in that section at that time, and were a menace to their domestic animals, and at times threatened human life. On one occasion, when the women of the settlement were

left at one cabin at night while the men went out hunting, the wolves attacked the place, and one wolf climbed the wooden mud-daubed chimney to enter the house; but his foot came through one of the cracks, and one of the women caught it by the foot and held it until the others slew it from the outside. Such was pioneer life, but we can scarcely realize this today.

Josiah Cowden moved to this section and settled in the mountains of Blount County; but his family, if any, seems to have dropped out or moved away, as I could find no trace of them there now.

WILLIAM COWDEN (1782-1878)

William Cowden was the first to move to this section from Tennessee, about 1812 or 1813, but some say in 1817. He settled on a rich section of land about one mile west of Village Springs, and built, on a rise above a large spring, his log home, which he afterwards added to and improved and lived in to the day of his death at the age of 96 years, the oldest Cowden known to me. If it takes a lot of living in a house to make it home, this was truly home. In this restless age, when home is anywhere one happens to be, we have lost much of the sacred atmosphere and precious associations of home. Man, like a tree, needs to be planted in one place for a long time to reach his greatest size and bear his best fruits. William Cowden was married in 1812, doubtless in Tennessee, to Catherine Yates (1788-1860), who came with him to Alabama. They were staunch Cumberland Presbyterians, strong in faith and true in life and character. A paper notice of his death says that he was "liberal in his views and fraternal in his religious feelings, and highly esteemed by all. His house was the home of all the watchmen of Zion. He lived to a great old age, and like a ripe shock of corn, was garnered in glory." His grandson, Dr. W. C. Miles, Oneonta, Ala., who grew up in his home, tells of his blindness in his old age, yet he went daily for prayer to a large grove of trees above the house, to which and from which he often led him. His children, all now dead, were as follows:

1. Phebe Cowden, who married a Tyler, returned to Tennessee, and lived near Culleoka; no information about her descendants.
2. Cynthia Cowden married a Rucker, but I am not informed as to her descendants.
3. Mariah Cowden married John American; no information about their descendants.
4. William Davis Cowden was killed in the War Between the States.
5. Robert Lindsay Cowden was killed in the War Between the States.

6. Mary Cowden. (No report on her.)

7. John Yates Cowden married Eliza Jane Devers, most of whose children moved to Mississippi and Arkansas, and are as follows: Florence Emiline, Markus Augustus, Sylvester Monroe (Pick), Orlando Balboa (Lannie), William Christopher, Mary Catherine, Calista Virginia and Eliza Jane. Florence Emiline Cowden married a Stone; Mary Catherine Cowden married a Grady; Calista Virginia Cowden married a Davidson, and lives in Arkansas; Eliza Jane Cowden married a McCandless, and lives in Arkansas; the children of Sylvester Monroe (Pick) Cowden, Aberdeen or Fulton, Miss., are Lila, Wyoming, William, Richard, Annie, Florence, Pauline and Mattie; and the children of Orlando Balboa Cowden, Amory, Miss., are Beula, Beunavista (Mrs. Mathews, Birmingham, Ala.), Jennie, Ethel, Lannie (Mrs. May), Lamont and Fred. The children of William Christopher Cowden are Dr. Marvin A. Cowden, Shannon, Miss. (wife, Costa B. Stone, no children); Clade B. Cowden, Fulton, Miss. (wife, Nellie Irby), one child, Martha Janis; Verna Cowden married Dr. J. D. Green, Brooksville, Miss., and has one child; and Robbie Estelle Cowden died in infancy.

8. Nancy Catherine Cowden (1833-1904) married William Daniel Miles (1835-1923), whose children are as follows: Leroy Walter, Isalina Christina (Lina), Gustavus Rodolphus, Austin Augustus, Malissa Catherine (Kittie), Myrtle Alabama, William Cowden, and Eva Virginia (Jennie). Leroy Walter Miles married Lou E. Palmer, whose children are Wood, James, John, Clyde, Irene and Alice (Mrs. Herbert Owen). Isalina Christina Miles married Uriah P. Crump, whose children are George, Charlie, Felix, and Ernest. Gustavus Rodolphus Miles married Idella Wilson, whose children are Ramond, Vera, Edward, Walter, W. D., Rueben and Roseo. Austin Augustus Miles married Nannie Palmer, whose children are Percy, Otho and an infant girl, deceased. Malissa Catherine Cowden married Wilson Hicks, whose children are Sidney, Preston, Lena and Billie. Myrtle Alabama Miles married Mark Wymond, whose children are Catherine and Mark. William Cowden Miles is a successful physician of Oneonta, Ala., and married Vallie Augusta Walton, whose children are W. C., Edward Walton, Lee Waits, Madie Augusta and Valeria Eloise. Eva Virginia Miles married J. Alford Morris and had one son, Kenneth.

ELIJAH COWDEN (1790-1837)

Elijah Cowden followed his brother, William, to Alabama in 1819. He married Anna Pettigrew about the time of his moving from Georgia to Tennessee; whether in Georgia or Tennessee is not known, as is shown by the birth of their first child, January 18, 1812. A Marshall County, Tenn. grant of land shows that they lived on the west fork of Rock Creek, which was near his father's place, where they lived until their removal to Alabama in 1819. Four children were born to them in Tennessee, namely: George, Robert Davis, Carol Wilson, and Louisa; four others were born to them in Alabama, namely: John Pettigrew, Andrew Jackson, Cynthia, and Anna Malissa. He settled in Murphree's Valley, about two miles northeast of Village Springs. Not much

of his life and character have been reported to me, but it is easy to fill in the record from the bare facts of his life. Having been a soldier under Jackson, and having made three frontier moves over a distance each time of about 200 miles, and built a home at two of the places, which were hewn out of the primeval forests of that day, he can be seen in the rugged outline and perspective of his life and character. However, in these days of soft comforts and luxuries, it is hard for us to visualize these strong, rugged pioneer men of the frontier of that day. They must have been made of sterner, stronger stuff than we of today, or else they received from the wild life and nature in which they lived a strength of muscle and will unknown to us today. The children of Elijah Cowden, with their descendants, were as follows:

GEORGE COWDEN (1812-1852)

George Cowden married Harriet Tidwell, and had seven girls, namely: Lou, Vacey, Melvena, Melissa, Kitty, Rena and Celia. Lou married Joe Huey and had the following children: Muggie, who married Somers Hullett; George, who married Dillie James; Kibernie, who married Eddie Ogden; and John, who married a Rice. Vacey Cowden married a Cosby, whose daughter, Florence, married Rev. Adolphus Hullett, by whom she had twelve children, and whose daughter, Dee, married John Johnson. Melvina Cowden married Ben Reece. Melissa Cowden never married. Kitty Cowden married James Watson, whose daughter, Katie, married John Eubanks. Rena Cowden also married James Watson. Celia Cowden died in youth.

LOUISA COWDEN

Louisa Cowden (1818-97) married Elijah Majors and moved to Texas, where they prospered and reared their family. They had the following children: John Huckaby, George, Amanda, William W. and Mary. Mary died in infancy, and William had no children. John H. married Mary Bynum, and had several children, whose names are not reported. George married Alice Fendley and had several children, whose names also are not reported. Amanda married Unah Bynum, whose children are Lonie Edna, Early Eugene, Ida, Walter, Eula and Oliver. Early Eugene Bynum married Belle Porch, whose children are Arnice, Elmira, Agnes, Cleopas, and Eula Edna. Ida Bynum married J. Frank Clark, and has one child, James Franklin, Jr. Walter Bynum married Pauline Howell, whose children are Maybelle, Herbert and

Lorene. Oliver Bynum married Ethel Donahoe, whose children are Francis, Christine and Olivia. Francis Bynum married Bruce Loyd.

CYNTHIA COWDEN

Cynthia Cowden, who was named for her aunt, married Perry Palmer, whose children were Arminda, who never married; Eugene, who died in childhood; Euell, Benjamin Davis and Ophelia Adiline. Euell Palmer married Sue Hambly, who had one son, John Henderson, and then married Dora Hagood, who had one son, Willie, who moved to Texas, had sons, and there died. John Henderson Palmer married a Pervin, whose children are Billie, Kate, Johnny, Frank and Edna. Benjamin Palmer (1857-1918), son of Cynthia Cowden and Perry Palmer, married Nannie Hagood, whose children were Alma, Maude, Walter, Claud and Annie Lou. Alma Palmer (1887) married Thomas Gillespie, whose children are Palmer (1910) and Nan Elizabeth (1917); Maud Palmer (1889) married J. D. Killough, whose children are Joseph Edward (1914), Harriet (1916), Nancy Carolyn (1924), and John William (1924). Walter Palmer (1892) married Lillye Clayton, and has one son, Eugene (1925). Claud Palmer (1896) married Annie Lou Farris, whose children are Elwyn (1917) and Betty Jo (1924). Annie Lou Palmer (1902) married Alton French.

ANNA MALISSA COWDEN

Anna Malissa Cowden (1816-1907) married Shannon K. Higginbotham, and lived near Village Springs, Ala., where they reared their children, namely: Jasper Holliday (1851-1921), Rodolphus Strider (1854-1929), Milton Curtis (1856), Rufus Cobb, who died in childhood, and Alice Elizabeth (1864-1905; but their children moved to Texas and Oklahoma. Their descendants are as follows:

1. Jasper H. Higginbotham married Nancy Hendricks, who had six children that lived to be grown, three of whom married as follows: Gussie married a Mr. Maguire of Oklahoma City, and has no children. Minnie married Mack Fisher, of Frisco, Texas, and has two children, Donald and Jasper. Eugenia married Ned Thomas, of Sentinel, Okla., and has two children, Ollie Rook and Nancy.

2. Adolphus Higginbotham married, first, Samantha Patterson, who had one son, Otis, Wichita Falls, Texas, who has three children. By his second marriage to Fannie Crank he had four children, namely: Eddie, who is an unknown soldier of the World War; Robert, who is married and lives in Oklahoma City; Charlie, Sentinel, Okla., married (no children), and Rosa, who married Sam King, Sentinel, Okla., and has five children.

3. Milton Curtis Higginbotham, who sent in this report, married Alice Palmer, both of whom are still living in Frisco, Texas. Their children are as follows: Leta, who married Glenn L. Sneed, of New Orleans, La., and has one child, Ralph; Walter, who married Belle Kelly, Celina, Texas, and has one child, Myrtice; Eula, who married G. J. Glenn, Frisco, Texas (no children); Fay, who married W. A. Finley, Sweetwater, Texas (no children).

4. Alice Elizabeth Higginbotham married Tom Cole, whose children are as follows: Ethyl, who married Ernest Archer, Denton, Texas, and has three children; Alta, who is married and lives in Corpus Christi, Texas, but name unreported; Tommie, who married Emmet Whitehead, San Antonio, Texas, and has two children.

ROBERT DAVIS COWDEN (1813-85)

Robert Davis Cowden, the second son of Elijah Cowden, was born in Marshall County, Tenn., and moved with his father to Blount County, Ala., where he married Louisa Palmer, and built his home about two miles northeast of Village Springs, where he reared a large family. He was a quiet, reserved man of true integrity and high ideals, without show or claim of distinction, yet stern and decided. He was true to his convictions and unswerving in his purposes. He had no toleration for anything false or dishonest, and he was unforgiving of those who wronged him. He was industrious and economical, and achieved success as a farmer. Marrying into the Palmer family, who were zealous and prominent in the Methodist Church of that day, he became a member of that Church; however, he was devoutly religious before coming into the Church. His children were as follows:

1. Julia Cowden (1837), who married Daniel Morton, Lapile, Ark., with one child reported, Charles Cowden Morton.

2. Henderson Davis Cowden (1839-94), a capable and successful business man of Blount County, who was twice married; first, to Elizabeth Staton, but left no children except some adopted children. He was an active member of the Methodist Church and of the Masons.

3. James Wilson Cowden was a soldier in the War Between the States and died at Corinth, Miss.

4. Emiline Catherine Cowden (1843) married Americus V. Patterson, Sterling City, Texas, whose children were Icedore, who married Jim Head (one child, Emma); Leonadas Eugene (8 children); Robert Henry (no children); and Lou Ella (dec'd).

5. Elgin Haden Cowden, eccentric old bachelor, went to Texas, where he lived alone, and died.

6. Leonora Madeville Cowden married Captain A. J. Ingram. (No children.)

7. Carter Cowden was killed at the age of sixteen by a rolling log.

8. Elijah Mansfield Cowden (1850-1926) was the romantic member of the family. After extensive travels through the South and a sojourn in Florida, he returned to the old home, which he purchased after the death of his father,

where he lived until its destruction by storm. He married Viella Young. He was a man of intelligence, a wide reader—especially of poetry, being able to quote at great length, and a great student of the Bible. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and of the Masonic Lodge, being one of the builders of the new church at Estaboga, Ala., to which town he moved, and where he died. He had one son, James Wilson Cowden, who married Clara Downing, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Downing, Alexandria, Ala., and lives at his father's homeplace, Estaboga, Ala. They have one son, James Downing.

9. Rachel Bridget Cowden, who is the only living daughter of Robert D. Cowden, married Uriah Binum (dec'd), and lives at her home near Oneonta, Ala., with her one son, Fred. She is a very interesting old lady.

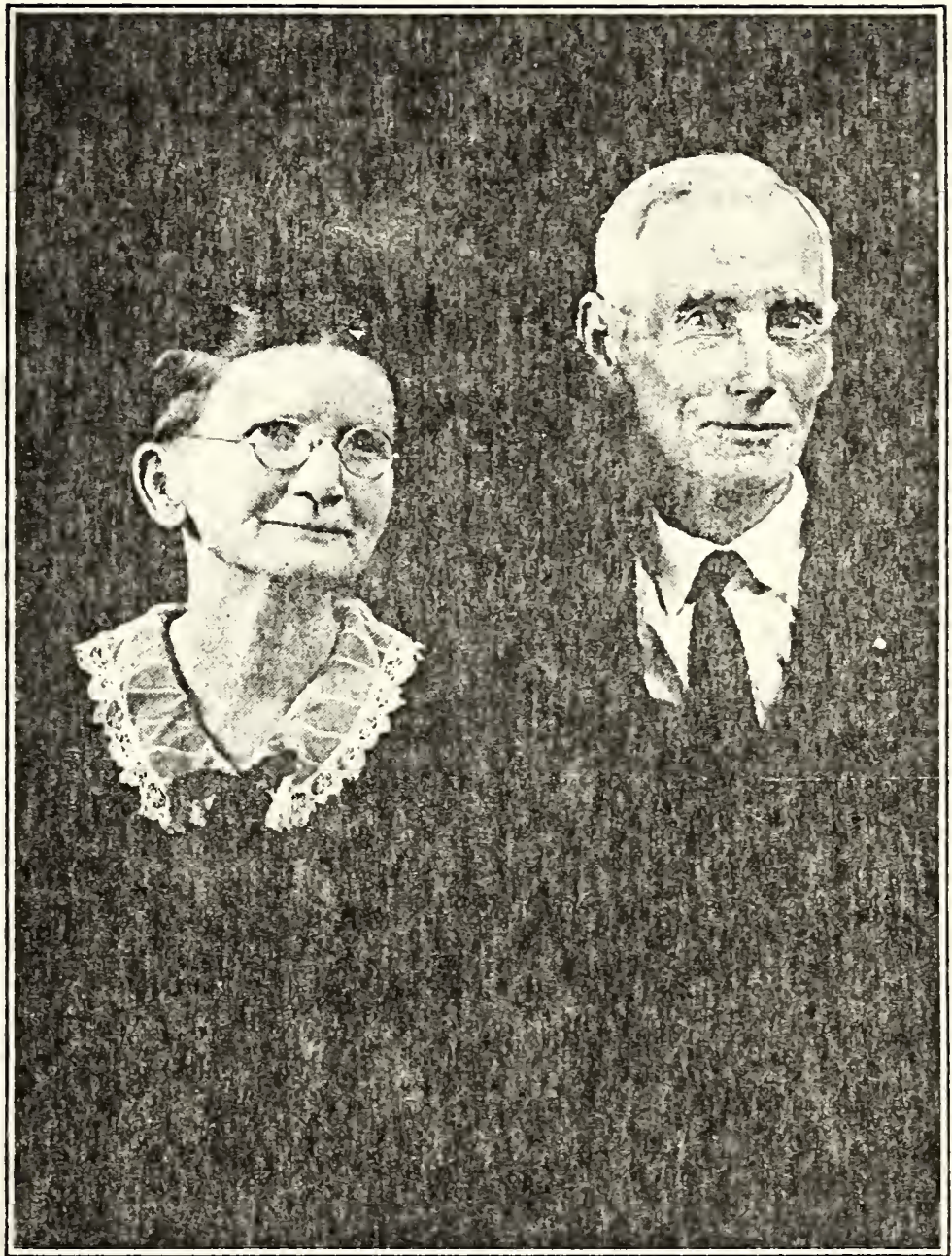
10. Amanda Malissa Cowden died at three years of age.

11. Louisa V. Cowden married James A. Young, dying in three years after her marriage, and leaving one child.

12. John Phelan Cowden married Helen Martin, whose history and family are given below:

JOHN PHELAN COWDEN

John Phelan Cowden (1858), the only living son of Robert Davis Cowden, was the first of Robert Cowden's descendants with whom I came in touch, and through whom I located the others. He is a man of strong native ability, sound judgment, great energy and entertaining personality. He married Emma Helen Martin (1860), a woman of rare intelligence, much charm and deep religious devotion. She is known throughout her community for her social and religious welfare work. Her children, who are now successful men and women, are an everlasting monument to her work in her home. Both she and her husband are devout Methodists. After marriage, this couple settled on part of the Cowden estate in Murphree's Valley, about two miles northeast of Village Springs, where they built two homes, having lost one in a fire, and have lived continuously on this farm for fifty years or more. They have seen Birmingham, not far away, grow from a village to the magic city of the South. After rearing, educating, and sending their eight children out into the world as useful and honorable citizens and workers, they are resting from their labors and spending their old age in peace. Last year they celebrated their golden wedding, with about two hundred relatives and friends present. All their children and many of their grandchildren returned from the various sections of the United States to the old home for this golden day in their lives. The old courtship was retold, the wedding reenacted, and a feast for all was spread. I visited them recently in their home. On Sunday all the Cowdens of that section were invited in to meet me, and hear and relate the history of the Southern Cowdens.



Mr. and Mrs. John Phelan Cowden

The children of John Phelan and Helen Martin Cowden are as follows:

1. Millard Martin Cowden (1882) married Lena Hodgpth and lives in Gamerco, N. Mex. They had five children, Helen, Robert, Millard, William Franklin (dec'd) and Frederick.

2. Grover Cleveland Cowden (1884) married Queenie Belle, of McKenzie, Tenn., and lives now at Corsicana, Texas, R. R. 1. They have three children, Elizabeth, Francis and Melba.

3. Harold Davis Cowden (1886) married Zettie Roberts and lives at Dallas, Texas, R. R. 6. They have four children, Adeline Ellen, Robert, William Edward and John P.

4. India Rachel Cowden (1888) married George William Hamilton (1886), and they live in Birmingham, Ala., 2128 Oak Ave. She is by profession a trained nurse, and has charge of the Home for the Poor, a large and beautiful institution of the county, where she is doing a great benevolent work. She has two children, Sarah Helen, who is in college at Berea, Ky., and George Hamilton, Jr., in high school.

5. Glenn Morris Cowden (1892), expert builder and contractor, married Vivian Gifford, of Greenwich, Ohio, and lives at 1515 Forty-fifth Ave., Birmingham, Ala. They have two children, Mozelle Marie and Mary Esther.

6. Sudie Emma Cowden (1895) is a teacher in the schools of Virginia. She is a woman of strong mind, great energy, will-power, and attractive personality. She is the most highly educated Cowden whom I have met, having taken her A.M. degree at New York University, and now at work on her Ph.D. at Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. She has made her way up through great difficulties from the farm to a place of usefulness and prominence in the educational world. She is now engaged in mountain school work in Virginia, where she has been school supervisor, and has done much social welfare work.

7. Mozelle Rebeca Cowden (1899) is also a teacher in the schools of western Virginia. Along with her school work she is taking graduate work at Peabody College during vacations. Besides being a successful teacher she is a writer of short stories for well-known magazines. She has the artistic temperament and touch, and is a woman of great personal charm and attraction.

8. John P. Cowden, Jr. (1902), an expert builder and contractor, married Mary Anne Hopeck, of Cleveland, Ohio, and lives in New York City. They have two children, Florence Virginia and John P., Jr.

WILSON CAROL COWDEN (1816-88)

Wilson Carol Cowden, son of Elijah Cowden, was a man of strength and energy. He was a great talker and very hospitable in his home, often entertaining crowds. He married, first, Nancy Palmer, whose children were as follows:

John Henderson (1840-62), who was killed as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War; Mary Jane (1842), who married, first, Mark D. Haygood, killed in the Civil War, by whom she had one child, Eula, who died unmarried, and she then married R. F. Campbell, by whom she had five children, namely: Thomas, Charles, Walter, Minnie and William; Melenia Emiline (1843-80),

who married M. H. Higginbotham, by whom she had seven children, namely: Uriana, Geneva, Maggie, Jackson, Rufus, Leonzo and Robert; Benjamin Franklin (1845-64), who was killed in the Civil War; Eliza Caroline (1846-62), who died unmarried; Elizabeth Anna (1865-86), who married B. B. Cornelius and had five living children, namely: Guy, John, Bonnie, Emma and Tinney; Martha Adeline (1849), who married John F. Musgrove, by whom she had seven children, namely: Sally, Nancy, Dora, William (Idalou, Texas), Martha, Dr. Joe (Idalou, Texas) and Henry; Isabel Catherine (1851), who married J. S. Fendley and had six children, namely: Era (Mrs. Yeilding, Birmingham, Ala.), Alta and Adrian (dec'd), Wilson (Birmingham, Ala.), J. S. Jr., (Oneonta, Ala.) and James (Oneonta); Sylvester Washington (1854-63), who died in youth; Pinkney Wilson (1856), who married Emma M. Hendricks and had three children, Olin (Tarrant, Ala.), George (Birmingham, Ala.) and Lyda (Mrs. R. L. Fowler, Oneonta, Ala.); Nancy Ann Selemma (1857—dec'd), who married R. L. Deaver, and had no children; Jasper Solomon (1859-89), who died unmarried; and Laura Eugenia (1861-81), who died unmarried.

After the death of Nancy Palmer Cowden, Wilson Carol Cowden married Phinetta Ann Cornelius Murphree, by whom he had five children, as follows:

Sarah Francis (1864-82), who died unmarried; Amanda Malissa (1866-91—dec'd), who married Rev. E. M. Pitts, Birmingham, Ala., and had one child William Daniel (1869) (Oneonta, Ala.), who married Cornelia Lois Wilson and had six children, namely: Earl Wilson (dec'd), Mary Lois (Mrs. Hugh M. Sherer, Jasper, Ala.), Erin (Mrs. Dr. John S. Denny, Alexander City, Ala.), Will Hugh and Ralph (5041 Parkway, Fairfield, Ala.) and Paul (Oneonta, Ala.); Joseph Perry (1871-98), (dec'd), who married Carrie Vann and had two children, Ernest and J. P., Jr. (Chalkville, Ala.); and Icie Beulah (1873-1919) (dec'd), who married Thomas Yarbrough and had nine children, namely: Marie, Amanda, Jane, Mary, Cleo, Dana Will, John, Thomas and Mack D. Another child of Carol Cowden died in infancy.

While the Cowdens have been a people with large families, the above family of Wilson Carol Cowden, nineteen children, with three step-children, takes the prize for numbers. In this day of diminishing families we wonder at the strength and courage of parents that could bear and rear such a family. The first generations of Cowdens had from eight to twelve children, and the last generations have from one to five. At this rate of decrease, we wonder how long it will be until there are no Cowdens in this country; but what is true of the Cowden family is true of all families. Birth control, economy, luxury and ease may finally defeat their own ends, and the American people become a vanishing people; but the Cowdens of the past have done their duty toward populating the past and present; and it remains to be seen what the Cowdens of the future will do. Large families mean

large responsibilities, which people of today have not the strength and courage to assume. There was also the religious element involved. Our fathers looked upon children as a gift of God, instead of nature, as we hold today, and they accepted them accordingly. Furthermore, the religious element was stronger in them, which gave strength to their muscles and courage to their hearts, and enabled them to bear greater burdens than the people of today.

JOHN PETTIGREW COWDEN (1823-82)

While no one sent me a character sketch of John Pettigrew Cowden, he was of the high order of manhood that characterized the Cowden men of his generation. He married Virginia Deaver (1831-83), and lived in Murphree's Valley, where the other Cowdens lived, near Oneonta. He was a successful farmer, and a man of influence in the community. He reared a family of eight children, who were prompt, honest, sober, honorable and successful, owning their own homes with plenty. All except two sisters are now dead. They with their descendants are as follows:

1. Sylvester H. Cowden (1852-1915), who was a farmer, a staunch Methodist and active in the Church, married Asenath Hendrix and had two children, namely: Willie Pettigrew and Annie. Willie Pettigrew Cowden married Mary Alice Fendley and had two children, Charles Hewitt and James Thomas, and one report gives John P., whose address is Oneonta, Ala. Annie Cowden married James Edgar Blackburn and has one child, Edgar Cowden, address, 7230 Division Ave., Birmingham, Ala.

2. Thomas Cowden (1866-1918) went to Texas and Oklahoma and became a railway engineer. He married Susan Burton Verdery, of Winchester, Texas, and afterwards moved to Oklahoma City, where he died. Their children are as follows: Burton Virginia (dec'd), Thomas Cowden, Jr. and John Pettigrew. This family are members of the Christian Scientist Church.

3. Robert Wilson Cowden (1857-1916), a dairy farmer, tall, erect and robust, married Ella McCluney, of Gadsden, Ala., daughter of a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher, and both were active, devoted members of this Church. Their children are as follows: Oscar Eugene, Alma, Bessie Virginia, Leila Mae, Arthur McCluney, Porter Guthrie and Jennette Asenath. Oscar Eugene Cowden was twice married, first, to Ossie Sivley, and second, to Celestia Robbnette, whose children are Lucile Elizabeth and Ossie Eugenia, address, 1421 Twenty-fifth St., Birmingham, Ala. Alma Cowden married Hilliard Hughes Thoms. (No children.) Address, 5803 Georgia Rd., Birmingham, Ala. Bessie Virginia Cowden married Robert Griffin Griffith, dairyman, Tarrant, Ala., whose children are Floyd Cowden (dec'd); Ina Virginia, who is married to Arlie Eugene Ingram, electrician, Birmingham, Ala., with two children, Virginia Arline and Martha Ann; Sadie Estelle; Ella Roberta, who is married to Harry Merrit Rutland, mining engineer, Whitwell, Tenn., with two children, Robert Michael and Harry Merrit; Robert Griffin; Leila Mae; Charles Whaley; and Gwen-

dolyn Josephene. Leila Mae Cowden married James Riley, 912 Jackson Blvd., Tarrant, Ala., whose children are James, Jr., Robert Cowden and Mae Allen. Dr. Arthur McCluney Cowden, a successful physician, 2314 Springhill Ave., Mobile, Ala., married Lula May Simmons, a former teacher of Mobile schools. They have two children, Robert Wilson and Lois Carolyn, both of whom, though young, thirteen and ten years of age, show evidence of strong native ability and musical talent; the son is a member of the high school band, and active in boy scout work; and the daughter is a musical prodigy, being able to name the various notes on the piano by sound, which is known as "positive pitch," and is never acquired, but inherited as a gift. Porter Guthrie Cowden, dairyman, Tarrant, Ala., married Marion Irene McCurry and has three children, Marion, Estelle, Annie Margurett and Bessie Juanita. Jennette Asenath Cowden married Morton Herbert Barland, Chelsea, Ala., and has two children, Leila Mae and Morton Herbert. The above descendants of Robert Wilson Cowden are for the most part members of the Presbyterian Church and active, useful citizens.

4. John P. Cowden died unmarried at the age of forty-five.

5. Amanda Hester Cowden (1850-1929), married at the age of 20 years, David Allen Aderholt (1842-1925), merchant at Springville, Ala., and had five children, namely: Eulah, Ada May, Annie Virginia, Jessie E. and Charles Cowden. Eulah Aderholt married C. E. Crandall, 4020 Sycamore St., Birmingham, Ala., coal operator, and has the following children: Anna B., Edgar Allen, 4430 Overlook Rd., Birmingham, Ala., an engineer, who married Margurett D. Smith, and has two children, Margurett Jane and Edgar Allen, Jr., and Virginia M. (dec'd). Ada May Aderholt is unmarried and lives at Springville, Ala. Annie Virginia Aderholt married Frederick Holmes Fletcher, Beverly Hills, Rossville, Ga. (No children reported.) Jessie E. Aderholt, office manager, Chattanooga, Tenn., married Dr. James E. Cleere (dec'd) and has one child, Colista Francis, who is a teacher in Missionary Ridge grammar school, Chattanooga, Tenn. Charles Cowden Aderholt (dec'd), an electrician, Springville, Ala., died single. The above are mostly members of the Presbyterian Church.

6. Martha J. (Mattie) Cowden married John Aderholt, brother of David, above. No descendants reported.

7. Virginia Pettigrew Cowden (1863) married William Thomas Hendricks, East Lake Station, R. R. 5, Birmingham, Ala., and has five children, namely: Walter Pettigrew, Robert Felix, Mary Holland (dec'd), William Charles (dec'd), and Lula Estelle. Walter Pettigrew Hendricks married Bessie Kinder, whose children are Lula Virginia (dec'd), John Ellis, Mary Pettigrew and Emma Myrtle (dec'd). Lula Estelle Hendricks married Thomas Watkins Riddle (dec'd) and has one child, Lillian Virginia. The mother of the above family is the homemaker and keeper, and the father at the time of his death was an employee of a clothing company. Walter was an employee of the Standard Oil Company; Robert Felix is a machinist of the Southern Railroad; William Charlie was a boilermaker of the Southern Railroad and Frisco Railroad; all are members of the Masons. Mrs. Riddle and husband were in the mercantile business.

8. Mary E. Cowden (1861) married Robert A. Ingram (1858), and lived in Blount County, Ala. many years; but they are now living in Harmon County, Okla., and are engaged in farming and stock-raising. They have five sons, namely: Samuel M., Fred B., Carlton C., Clyde and Claud. Samuel M. Ingram (1882) married Inez Brice, of Oneonta, Ala., lives in Oklahoma City, and is



Father
John Pettigrew Cowden

Daughter
Mrs. Amanda H. Aderholt

Daughter
Mrs. Virginia P. Hendricks



Father
Robert Wilson Cowden

Son
Dr. A. M. Cowden
Mobile, Ala.

Children
Robert Wilson, Jr., and
Lois Carolyn

employed in the tax department. Fred B. Ingram (1884) married Alma Pennington, of Texas, and has two children, Lela Inez and Mary Adeline. He lives in McAlester, Okla., and is the manager of the State Penitentiary Farm. Carlton C. Ingram (1887) married Alice Overton, of Texas, and has two sons, John Overton and Robert Allen. He lives in Crosbyton, Crosby County, Texas, and is engaged in farming, real estate and insurance. Clyde Ingram (1898) lives in Baton Rouge, La., and works for the Extension Division of the State University. Claud Ingram (1898) married Hattie Farris, of Harmon County, Okla., and is engaged in farming in that county.

ANDREW JACKSON COWDEN

Elijah Cowden named his first son, born to him after his service under General Jackson in the War of 1812, after his beloved general, which shows the high esteem General Jackson's men had for him, and also Elijah Cowden's loyalty and patriotism. This son was accordingly known as Jack Cowden. He married Nancy Higginbotham, and made his home in the same mountain section where the other Cowdens settled. Six children were reported, who are as follows: Vaughn, who married a Taylor; Robert, a lawyer, who married a Hagood; George, who married Mattie Walters; Shannock; Kitty; and Cynthia. I have not received the names of the children of any of them except George, who are as follows: Thomas, who married Annie Pilkington, has six children, and lives at New Castle, Ala.; Maude, who married Thomas Sullivan, has four children, and lives at New Castle, Ala.; Robert, who married Anna Armstrong, has three children, and lives at Black Creek, Ala.; Samuel, who was killed in the mines; Beatrice, who died; George M., who married Arzilla Strickland, has three children, and lives at Birmingham, Ala., R. R. 7, box 53; Shirley, who married Arthur Pilkington, has seven children: Elizabeth, who died; Benjamin, who married a Baldwin, and lives in Winston County, Ala.; and Jerry, who married Ella Blanche Springer, and lives in Columbus, Ohio.

MISSOURI COWDENS

I am indebted to Glenn I. Cowden, Parsons, Kan., for data concerning the Missouri Cowdens, whom we set forth next.

The remainder of this chapter has to do with those of Robert Cowden's family who emigrated from Marshall County, Tenn., to Polk County, Mo. After his death two members of his family, Cynthia and Robert, Jr., together with some of their neighbors, the Fullertons, the Burns, and the Armstrongs, moved, in 1842, with the tide of emigration west into Missouri, which was then

frontier territory. The other members of the family had many years before this moved to Alabama. This far western trek into Missouri was in a caravan of wagons, which was the only means of transportation in that day. Only such heroic souls as the pioneers of that day would have undertaken such a journey; but they were used to and hardened by pioneer life, and nothing daunted them. They moved into the southwest of the state, settling twenty miles north of Springfield at Pleasant Hope, where they cleared the land, established their homes, hewn out of the primeval forests, and became the leaders in building up this part of the new state. In farming and business and in the social, educational and religious life of the community they were the recognized leaders; and through the several generations that have followed their descendants have maintained and advanced the standing of the family.

CYNTHIA COWDEN

Cynthia Cowden married William Holmes Fullerton, and moved first to Humphreys County, Tenn., where they lived for several years. Court records show that they sold their land there in 1844, so must have moved at that time to Pleasant Hope, Mo., where other members of the Fullerton family, namely, James R., and Mary S., had previously moved. All of these reared large families there, and many of their descendants still reside in the community. William Holmes and Cynthia Cowden Fullerton had seven children, namely: Robert C., who married a Miss Shannon; Adam B., who married Theresa Faucett; Jane Catherine, who married Dr. Cochran; Mary Caroline, who married Harden Fullerton; Marian Ann, who married Samuel Fullerton; William Q., who married Catherine Faucett; and Louise Elizabeth, who married Samuel Cowden. No further report on their descendants.

ROBERT COWDEN, JR. (1792-1865)

After Robert Cowden died in Marshall County in 1840, his son, Robert, bought his father's home place, as is shown by a deed to him by other members of the family; but he remained in Marshall County only two years afterwards, when he sold the place and moved to Pope County, Mo., and settled at Pleasant Hope. He had previously married Mary S. Fullerton (1797-1866) in Marshall County, where all of their thirteen children were born. He was fifty years of age with a large family of thirteen children,

ranging in size and age from infants to manhood, when he moved to Missouri, which required great strength and courage of body and soul; however, he wanted the advantages of the new, growing, promising west for his children, and was willing to pay the price of the journey in toil and hardships. In these days of ease and luxury we can not conceive of the strength of body and soul that enabled parents to bear and rear so many children and move with them in a wagon to a distant and primeval state. Their children were 'as follows: James Adam, John Allen, William D., Robert Blackburn, Mary A., Jane C., Newton Alexander, Cynthia E., Louisa M., Elijah Marshall, Samuel Hardin, Hannah Louise, and Malissa E., all of whom except the last are now dead, and whose families are herein given. Robert Cowden, Jr. and wife are buried in Pleasant Hope Cemetery, Missouri.

JAMES ADAM COWDEN

James Adam Cowden (1820-1851) married Amanda A. Steele in Tennessee, and they came to Pleasant Hope, Mo., with his father's family, where they lived and died, and are buried in Pleasant Hope Cemetery. Their children are as follows: John Frank, Mary Ellen, and James Steele.

1. John Frank Cowden (1849-1929) married Malissa J. Wallace. He was engaged in the mercantile business in Springfield for many years. He had one daughter, Cora Lee (1873-1905), who married Gordon Payne and left one child, Frank Payne, Jr.

2. Mary Allen Cowden (1846) married Robert Pace, a ranchman, of Calexico, Calif., and they have two sons and two daughters. No further information on them.

3. James Steele Cowden (1851-1932) married Sarah E. Wallace. He was engaged in farming and stock raising in Missouri and Arizona., having died recently in Arizona. He had four children, namely: Christie, who lives in Phoenix, Ariz.; Maude, who married William McClure, a farmer of Republic, Mo.; Claude (dec'd); and Efton Ray, a ranchman in Arizona.

HANNAH LOUISE COWDEN

Hannah Louise Cowden (1822-1886) married Newton Fauceette, and had a family of several children, but no further information on them. She is buried in Pleasant Hope Cemetery.

JOHN ALLEN COWDEN

John Allen Cowden (1823-1901) married Sarah Elizabeth Armstrong. For many years he operated the Pleasant Hope Hotel, and was also postmaster of the town. He had five children,

namely: Marguret Skallman (1857-1871), James Mellon (1860-1909), Louisa Ann (1864-1921), who married C. C. Baker, Mary Allis (1827-1868), and Sarah Florence (1874), who married Emerson Prater, and lives in Pleasant Hope, Mo.

WILLIAM D. COWDEN

William D. Cowden (1825-1881) married Mary H. Fullerton, and had five children, namely: John Porter, George Washington, Robert Samuel Holmes, Palestine, and Malissa Jane.

1. John Porter Cowden (1853-1932) married Alice Burns, daughter of Z. T. L. Burns, and had nine children, namely, Cora E., Arthur H., William L., Orlie O., Guy A., Carl E., Howard Austin, Eugene C., and Leonard F. Here are enough Cowden men to perpetuate the name of Cowden in Missouri for many years.

Cora E. Cowden (1877) married Real Wilcox, Springfield, Mo., and has the following children: Rena, Fred, Lucille, Vera, Carl, Paul, Ray, Keith, Kenneth, and Charles. Carl and Ray are dead.

Arthur M. Cowden (1879), a farmer of Pleasant Hope, Mo., married Mattie J. Cochran, daughter of Dr. Cochran, and they have the following children: Pauline, Jack, Phyllis (dec'd), Miles, Marjorie, Max, Percy, Mary (dec'd), and Alice.

William L. Cowden (1881) married Bessie Temple. No children reported. He is the president of the Southern Missouri Trust Company, Springfield, Mo., and is one of the leading business men of the city. Address, 411 Normal St.

Orlie O. Cowden (1887) married Clara May Curlin, and lives at Red Top, Mo. They have one child, Mildred.

Guy A. Cowden (1889) married Zepha Riley in 1918. He was a soldier in the World War, commissioned first lieutenant of infantry, and served overseas in many important battles. He is now engaged in the insurance business in Springfield, Mo. Address, 617 S. Weller St.

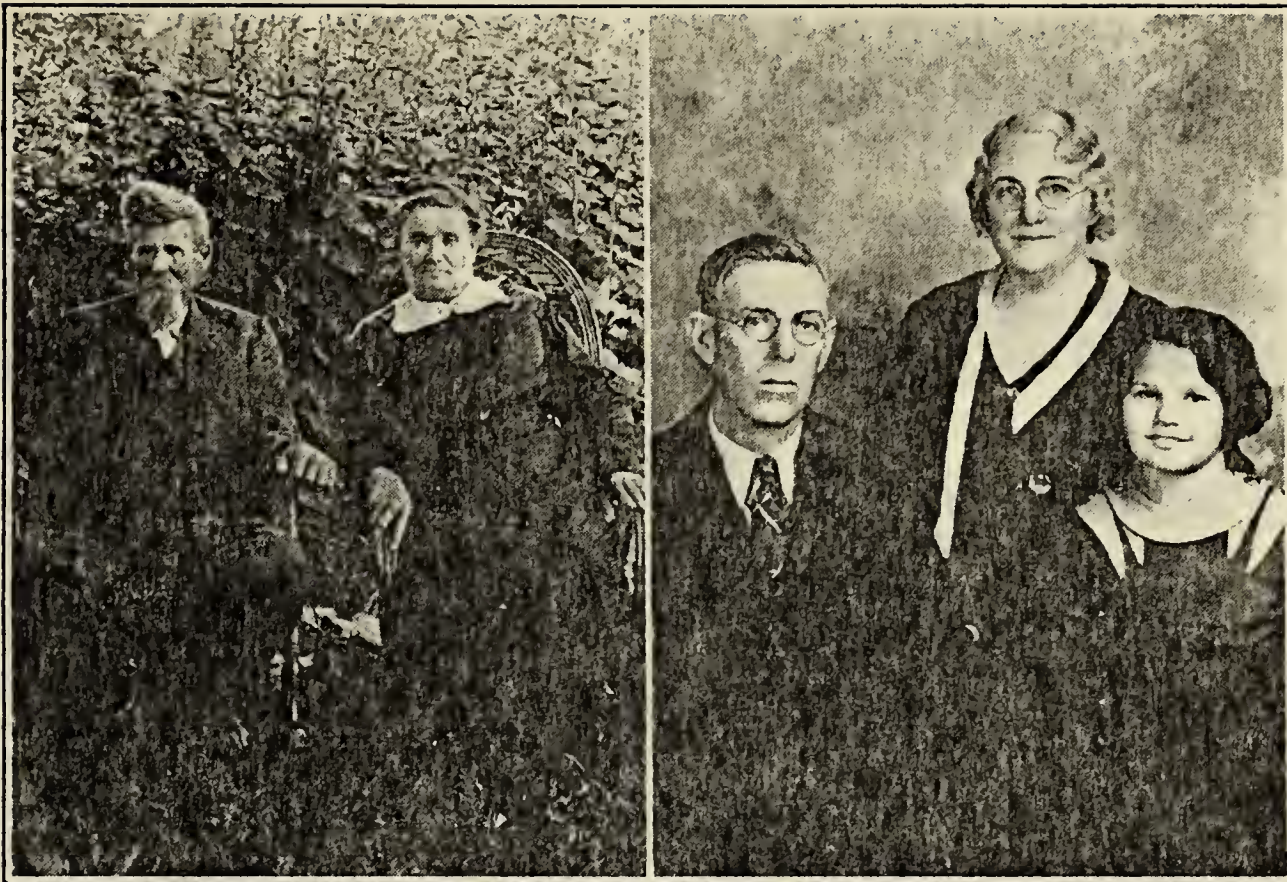
Carl E. Cowden (1890) married Jessie Berry and has three children, Carlene, Elaine, and Virginia. He is a farmer of Pleasant Hope, Mo., and lives on the farm that was settled by his great-grandfather.

Howard Austin Cowden (1893) married Thelma Lundy, and they have two sons, Keith L. and John Henry. He married next Edna May Reno in 1932, and lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he is the president of the Union Oil Company.

Eugene C. Cowden (1896) married Vera Kinsey, and they have four children, namely: Maxene, Helen, Dorothy, and Vera Porter. He lives in Pleasant Hope, Mo., where he operates a garage. (No children.)

Leonard F. Cowden (1899) married Mary Edith Gooch and has one child, Leonard F., Jr. He is an executive in the Kansas City office of the Continental Company, where he lives.

2. George Washington Cowden (1865) married Mary Florence Burns, daughter of Z. T. L. Burns, and they have five children, namely: Lena Edna, Morris Emmett, Nellie Ann., Myrtle Inez, and Ray Herbert.



Mr. and Mrs. John Porter Cowden Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Cowden and daughter, Mildred



Dr. W. H. Cowden

Lena Edna Cowden (1881) married James S. Patterson, who operates a hardware and implement store in Pleasant Hope, Mo. They have three children, Dale, Hazel Louise and Wendell.

Morris Emmet Cowden (1883) lives in Tulsa, Okla., where he owns and operates a group of cigar stores.

Nellie Ann Cowden (1886) married Ed. Tice, a farmer near Pleasant Hope, Mo., and they have three children, George Francis, Herbert Neill, and Charles Cowden.

Myrtle Inez Cowden (1889) lives in Pleasant Hope, Mo.

Ray Herbert Cowden (1892) married Lee Stafford, lives in Springfield, Mo., and has three children, Donald Ray, Tyrus Dale, and Norma Lee.

3. Robert Samuel Holmes Cowden (1864) married Mollie Jane Prater, and lives at Neodesha, Kans. They have six children, namely: William Claude, Bonnie Edgar, Nora Mabel, Gale Opal, Ester Olive, and Henry Ralph.

William Claude Cowden (1887-1928) married Atha May Nida, and had four children, namely: Robert Cornelius, Ester Fern, Nellie, and Billie Nida.

Bonnie Edgar Cowden (1893) married Malissa Olena Van Dusan and lives at Neodesha, Kans. They have the following children: Donald Earl, Wilbur Eugene, and Juanita Lorene and Buanita Florene (twins).

Nora Mabel Cowden (1896) married Ray I. Howard. They live at Hazelton, Kans., and have one child, Herbert Dale.

Gale Opal Cowden (1897-1910) married Charles P. O'Dell. They had two children, Mollie Pearl and Georgie Irene.

Henry Ralph Cowden (1901) married Mary Ethel Dix, and lives at Winfield, Kans. They have the following children: Robert Howard, Levan Frederick, Richard Ralph and James Roger.

4. Malissa Jane Cowden (1861-1912) married Elijah J. Carden, and they had eight children, two of whom died in infancy, and the surviving children are: Lutie A. Carden, Lela M. Horney, Mary E. Sherrill, George A. Carden, Dora Dickens, and Ray Carden.

ROBERT BLACKBURN COWDEN

Robert Blackburn Cowden (1826-1865) married Martha J. Headlee, and they had four children, namely: William Harvey, Christopher C., Mary Caroline, and Albert Sidney. His home was in Polk County with the other Cowdens. He was a successful farmer and stockman all his life; yet, judging from the work and character of his children, he must have given considerable time and interest to their rearing and training. After all, the success or failure of one's life depends largely upon his children, because his largest investment is made in them. His children are as follows:

1. Dr. William Harvey Cowden (1850) grew to manhood on the farm, and received his education in the public schools of Ebenezer and McGee College, and finished his literary education in Dury College, Springfield, Mo. In 1876 he began the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. Samuel H. Headlee, of St. James, Mo.; and in 1878 he entered the Missouri Medical College in St. Louis, from which he graduated in 1880. He returned to Polk County, where he began

and continued the practice of medicine until 1911, building up an extensive and successful work in his profession. His name became a household word throughout the northern part of Greene County. Desiring a larger field, he moved to Springfield in 1911 and opened an office there. His reputation had preceded him, and as a result, from the beginning he has had a wide and successful practice there. Though now growing old, with his sight impaired, he is still active in his profession. Expressing a wish to retire after fifty years of practice, he purposed to do so; but it seems that the people have not allowed him to retire, so only the infirmities of old age will end his work. His wife, who was Miss Mackie Butts, whom he married in 1890, is now dead, and also their only child, William, which, with the exception of his many relatives and friends, leaves him alone.

2. Christopher C. Cowden remained at the old homestead on the farm in Polk County, becoming a successful farmer and stockman; however, previous to his death in 1913 he moved to Colorado, near Lamar. He married Jarilda Cavin, Pleasant Hope, and they had two children, Everett, who was killed young in an accident, and Effie, who lives in Kansas City, Mo.

3. Mary Caroline Cowden died unmarried.

4. Albert Sidney Cowden (1863-1927) was for forty years one of the leading lawyers of Springfield, Mo. He received his early education in the public schools of Polk County, after which he entered the law department of the University of Missouri, from which he was one of the first graduates of this school. After graduation he opened a law office in Springfield, where he built up a large clientele, becoming one of the best known and most efficient attorneys in the city. He married Miss Julia Patterson, and from this union there were born two daughters, Alberta Elizabeth (1893), who lives with her mother in Springfield, and Lenore M. (1897), who married William A. Dickinson, and lives in Webster Grove, Mo.

MARY A. COWDEN

Mary A. Cowden (1827-1898) married Alexander Ellison, who died young, leaving her with four small children, namely: Thomas C., who married Kate Williams; Nancy, who married Benj. Williams; Hannah, who married Hampton Fullerton; and Denny. Hannah and Hampton Fullerton had three children, namely: Roy, who lives in Kansas City; Drew, who lives in Springfield; and Elsie (Mrs. Loyal Davies), who lives in Springfield.

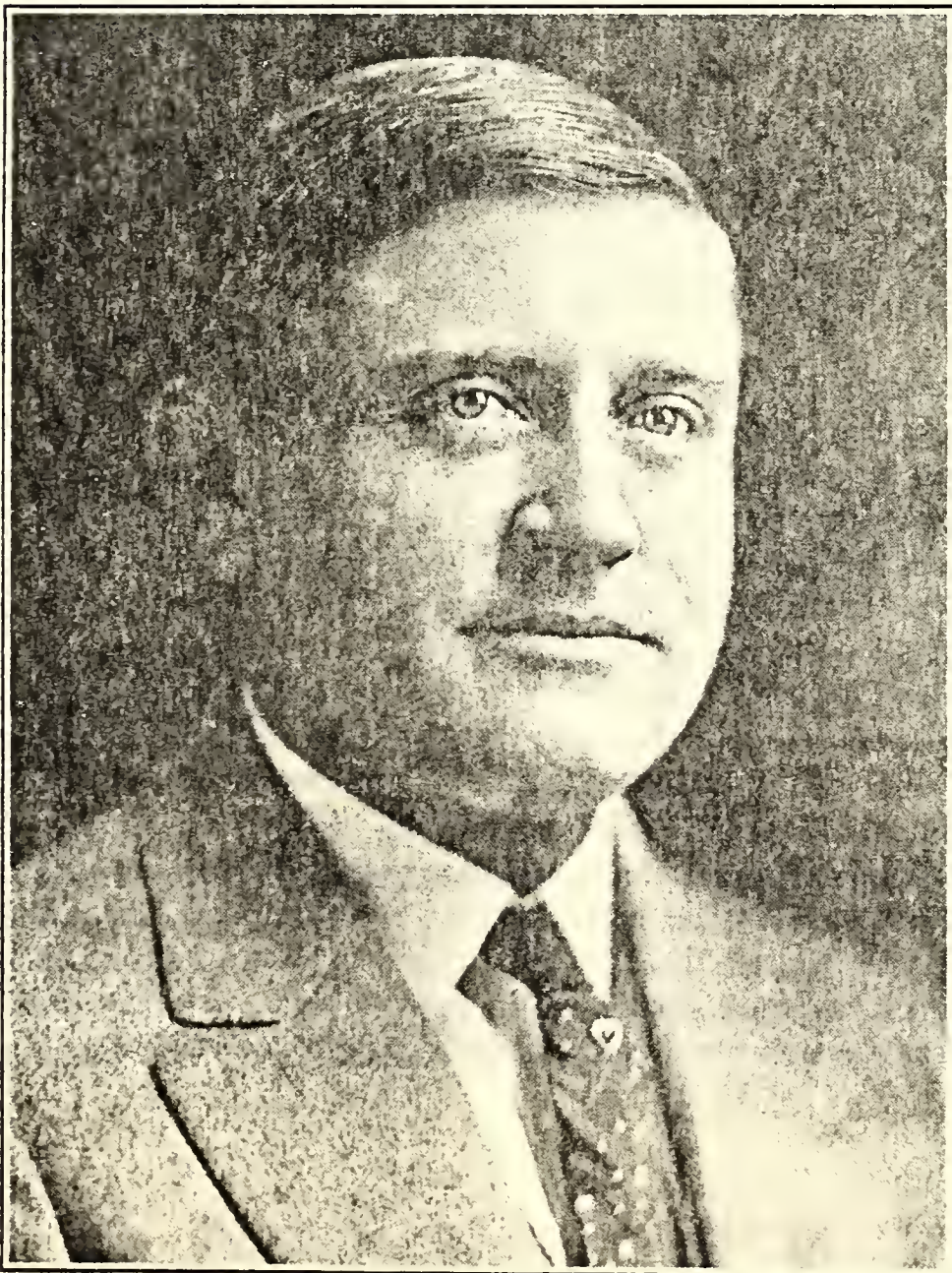
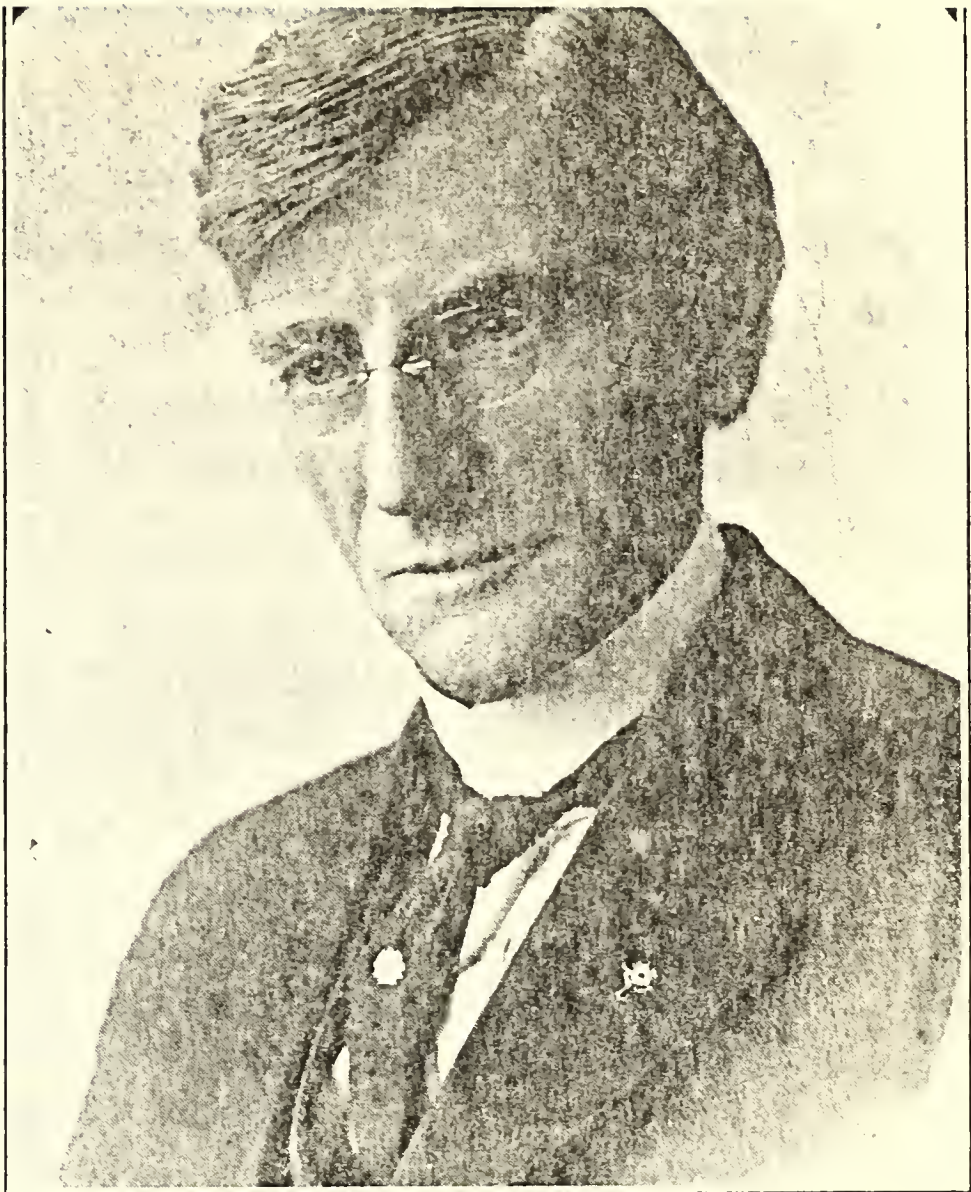
JANE C. COWDEN

Jane C. Cowden (1829-date of death not reported) married James Porter Fullerton. They are both dead, and left no children.

UNMARRIED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

Newton Alexander Cowden (1831-1913), died at his brother's home in Pleasant Hope, unmarried. Cynthia E. (1832-1899) died single, and also Louisa M. (1834-1880).

*Father —
Rev. M. F. Cowden, D.D.,
Springfield, Mo.*



*Son —
Clarence I. Cowden,
Atlanta, Ga.*

ELIJAH MARSHALL COWDEN

Elijah Marshall Cowden (1836-1912), named for his uncle, who went to Alabama, and from whom most of the Alabama Cowdens have descended, was a successful farmer, and also operated the Pleasant Hope Flour Mills. At the outbreak of the War Between the States, being a sympathizer with the Southern cause, he and his brother Samuel left home to join the Confederate Army; but they were arrested by a band of so-called Home Guards, who operated as Federal soldiers. Samuel escaped and joined the Confederate Army, but Elijah was imprisoned in the courthouse in Springfield, where he remained a prisoner, and was forced to work on the fortifications around the city. Finally, in 1862, realizing that he could not help the Confederacy and knowing that his family needed him, he took the oath of neutrality to get out of prison. He married Margaret Lucky Fullerton (1834-1911), and they had six children, namely: Marcellus Elbridge, Morella Franklin, Samuel Lee, Mary Evalyn, Edith May, and Nettie Luella. Like many other Cowdens, they were members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

1. Marcellus E. Cowden (1958) married Samantha M. Fly, and for many years they lived in Pleasant Hope, where he engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. Later he moved to Morrisville, where he operated a flour mill. He and his wife have six children, as follows: 1. Ronald Marvin (1892), who married Nora Robertson and has two children, Clyde R. (1922) and Leonard L. (1924); 2. Lena I. (1895), who married Andrew M. Watkins; 3. Margurett E. (1899), who married Ben R. White, and has two children, Rives B. (1922) and William A. (1924); 4. Roy C. (1902); 5. Helen M. (1905); and 6. John M. (1907), who married Lara A. Lemon. Three other children of Marcellus E. Cowden died in infancy.

2. Morella Franklin Cowden, D.D. (1861) is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church. While the Cowdens have been active and faithful members of the church, there have been few preachers among them, only three among the Southern Cowdens. Dr. Cowden was a frail child, and at the age of twenty he was thought to have an incurable case of tuberculosis; but with the fighting spirit that has characterized his life he refused to accept the verdict of the doctors as final and went West, where he spent two years working on ranches in Colorado and Kansas. He returned to Pleasant Hope greatly improved in health, and re-entered college, from which he graduated with B.S. degree, after which, in 1893, he entered the Theological Seminary of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn., where he received his theological training, and later received his Doctor of Divinity degree from the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Ark. He has held pastorates in several cities, including Bonham and Austin, Texas, McAlester and Oklahoma City, Okla., and Springfield, Mo., where he now lives at 1850 Main St., and is clerk and treasurer of the Ozark Presbytery. In addition to his work as a minister he has been very active in all branches of Masonry,

being a Knights Templar and 32nd degree K. C. C. H. Mason. He married Cordelia Belle Burns, daughter of Z. T. L. and Lydia A. Burns. With his wife, who has been a faithful companion and co-worker with him, he is spending his declining years, resting from his "labors of love" in the service of God and humanity. They reared and educated a family of four children, namely, Ruby Floy (1886-1887), George Francis (1893-1897), who died in Bonham, Texas, Clarence Irving (1888), who was a soldier and Y. M. C. A. worker in the World War, and married Sarah Steddon, of Oklahoma City, and has one child, Morris Franklin. They now live in Atlanta, Ga., where he is engaged in the insurance business. Glenn Irl Cowden (1890), who gathered the data of the Missouri Cowdens, married Buanna Lee Tucker, daughter of Dr. C. A. Tucker, Springfield, Mo., and has one child, Patricia Lee. They live in Parsons, Kans., where he is engaged in the wholesale grocery business. He is a loyal Cowden, without whose aid these records could not have been compiled, and to whom all Missouri Cowdens are therefore indebted. He is also a loyal citizen, having served two years in the World War.

SAMUEL HARDIN COWDEN

Samuel Hardin Cowden (1838-1909) served throughout the War Between the States as a private in Co. A., 9th (Elliot's) Missouri Cavalry. After the war he married Louise Elizabeth Fullerton, and they had four children, namely, Ida Belle (1872), Ada May (1872-1883), Morris Shelby (1875-1895), and Arthur N. (1880-1880).

MELISSA E. COWDEN

Melissa E. Cowden (1839), the youngest of Robert Cowden's thirteen children, is the only one of his family living. She is past 93 years of age, hale and hearty, with a wonderful memory of her long and varied life and experiences. She married Dr. J. B. Landrith, who died several years ago. They had no children. She is now living in Morrisville, Mo.

This closes the genealogy and history of the Missouri branch of the Southern Cowdens, who have been and still are a strong and sturdy folk that have left their influence in Missouri for good. They have been diligent workers, active, useful citizens, and faithful members of the church, for the most part Cumberland Presbyterians.

CHAPTER VI

TENNESSEE COWDENS

JOHN COWDEN I

We come now to the other southern branch of Cowdens, which began with John Cowden of Iredell County, N. C., whose descendants, of whom I am one, are set forth in the following chapters of this book. In tracing the genealogy of the Cowdens I have had to follow the back-track, beginning with my own immediate family and running the line back to its beginning. A family tradition, given to me by my father, was that the Cowdens of Tennessee came from Iredell County, N. C., thence from Ulster, Ireland, through Pennsylvania, which on investigation I have found to be true. Going back to Iredell County, N. C., or Rowan County, as it was when the Cowdens came to North Carolina, Iredell County having been later cut off of Rowan, I found ample proofs of their having lived there and having come from Lancaster County, Pa., where I also investigated the Cowden records, and found them in complete agreement with the North Carolina records.

I found that John Cowden, of North Carolina, was a son of Mathew Cowden of Lancaster County, Pa., who (Mathew) was born in Ireland in 1707, came to this country about 1728 or 1729, and settled on a 300-acre farm at Paxtang, in Paxton Township, Pa., on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg. The genealogy and history of his descendants that remained in Pennsylvania, the children of his daughter, Margurett Cowden Gilchrist, and his son, Captain James Cowden, of the Revolutionary War, has been written by one of his descendants, Professor Hubertis Cummings, of the University of Cincinnati, from whom I quote the following on Mathew Cowden:

"He came as a pioneer to Lancaster County, Pa., in 1729, married Martha Johnson in 1730, established himself on a tract of land in Paxton Township, and here applied himself to the task of clearing the forest and building up a farm, identified himself with the Covenanter congregation of the Paxton Presbyterian Church, of which he and his descendants for four or five generations were active communicants, a place of worship now famous in Pennsylvania, having still today a vigorous congregation of Presbyterians, where many of his children and descendants were married, and with him are buried, and where a memorial in honor of him is being prepared and placed by his descendants. Undoubtedly, he was much absorbed in the labors and anxieties which beset his Scotch-Irish neighbors on the frontier of between 1730 and the period of the American Revolution, and was connected as a justice of the peace with the investigation which occurred after the so-called 'Paxton Boys' Insurrection' as shown by a quaint oath, made and subscribed to by him. He was among those cautious Presbyterians who, fearing Indian raids, carried their rifles into the church when they congregated in Paxton Church to listen to the sermons of Parson John Elder, whose gun also stood by his pulpit."

The following is the will of Mathew Cowden, which is on record in Lancaster County, Pa., and probated August 19, 1773:

In the Name of God, Amen:

This nineteenth day of October, One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Two, I Mathew Cowden of Paxtang Township, in the county of Lancaster, Yeoman being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God for the same and calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament. That is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it and for my body I recommend it to the earth to be buried in a Christianlike and decent manner at the direction of my Executors nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. As touching such worldly estate where with it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and dispose of the same in the manner and form following: that is to say In the first place I give and bequeath to Martha my dearly beloved wife my mansion house and the sum of Seven pounds per year and six bushels of wheat yearly and every year during her natural life also her riding mare and saddle and one cow (which are to be kept for her by my son James during her life) with her bed and bedding and one sixth part of my household furniture forever. Also I give to my beloved son, William Ten Pounds to be in full of my real and personal estate payable one year and one day after my decease to him by my Executors.

Also I give to my beloved daughter Margaret Seven shillings and six pence to be paid her by my Executors to be in full of my real and personal estate. Also I give to my well beloved son John Seven shillings and six pence in full of my real and personal estate to be paid him by my Executors. Also I give to my son James his heirs and assigns the tract of land I now live on with the appurtenances thereunto belonging (excepting the privileges I gave to Martha, my beloved wife) forever, likewise one half of a certain tract of undivided land adjoining the aforesaid tract which is warranted in my name and John Gillcrest to him the said James his heirs and assigns forever with one sixth part of my

household furniture, he paying Two hundred pounds Pennsylvania currency out of the above described tracts of land as followeth: to my beloved daughter Mary the sum of Fifty pounds with one sixth part of my household furniture payable in Two years and one day after my decease. To my well beloved daughter Elizabeth the sum of Fifty pounds with one sixth part of my household furniture payable in Two years and one day after my decease. To my well beloved daughter Rebecca the sum of Fifty pounds with one sixth part of my household furniture payable in Two years and one day after my decease. To my well beloved son Benjamin the sum of Fifty pounds with one sixth part of my household furniture payable One year and one day after my decease. Also I give to Mathew Gillcrest son of John Gillcrest Ten pounds payable to him Two years after my decease by my Executors. Also I give to Mathew Cowden son of John Cowden Ten pounds payable in two years after my decease by my executors. The remainder of my personal estate to be sold and disposed of by my executors and after paying all my just debts the remainder to be disposed of as follows: the one third to my dearly beloved wife Martha and the rest to be equally divided amongst all my children. I likewise constitute John Gillcrest and my son James Cowden my executors of this my last will and testament and I do hereby disallow, revoke, and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills and legacies, bequests by me in any ways before this time named willed and bequeathed rectifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

MATHEW COWDEN.

Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by the said Mathew Cowden as his last will and testament in the presence of the subscribers.

WILLIAM FOULKES. WILLIAM MCKNIGHT. JOSEPH WILLSON.

The home and farm which Mathew Cowden bequeaths in the above, on which he lived and died, is on the Susquehanna River, a few miles northwest of Harrisburg, lying south of the road midway between the village and the river, running from Tinglestown to the river at Fort Hunter. This farm remained in the family until the '60's. About three miles south of it is the Paxton Presbyterian Church, of which Mathew Cowden and his family were members, and in the graveyard of which he and many of them are buried.

There is an intention and plan on the part of the Pennsylvania Cowdens to place a memorial in the old Paxton Presbyterian Church in honor and memory of Mathew Cowden, according to letter from Professor Hubertis Cummings; but those most interested have discovered, from proof submitted by me, that they are not descended from Mathew Cowden, so it behooves those that are his descendants to carry out this purpose and plan of memorializing him. Please write me that you are interested in this and that you will cooperate and aid in the same, that this

memorial may be completed. It should receive a ready and hearty response from every living descendant. All should be glad to have a part in paying this tribute to our ancestor who is responsible for our being in this country, in which we have been so blessed, and of which we are so proud.

John Cowden, the third child of Mathew Cowden, born in 1735, moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina some time before 1765, as shown by the following deed, which I found on record at Salisbury, N. C.

This indenture; Made the 10th day of January in the year of our Lord 1765 between John McGuire of the County of Rowan of the one part and John Cowden of the County of Rowan of the other part, Witnesseth that the said John McGuire for and in consideration of five shillings sterling to him in hand paid by the said John Cowden, the receipt hereof is hereby acknowledged, hath bargained and sold, and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said John Cowden all that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the county of Rowan in the province foresaid in the forks of the Yadkin River and on Rocky Creek, beginning at a beech on the North side of said Rocky Creek, running thence 55 ch. North to a pine, thence 80 ch. to a white oak, thence S. 55 ch. to white oak, thence E. 80 ch. to the first station, containing 440 acres as by original deed doth appear, and the revision and reversions, remainder of remainders with the rents, (an illegible word here, perhaps dues) and profits of the premises and every part and parcel thereof, to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land and all and singular other premises herein mentioned and intended to be bargained and sold with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said John Cowden, his heirs, executors, administrators, assigns from the day before the date hereof for and during the term of one whole year from thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended, yielding and paying therefore the rent of one pepper corn on the 25th day of March next only, if the same be demanded to the intent that by virtue of these presents and of the statutes for transferring this into possession of the said John Cowden may be in actual possession, and be enabled to accept and grant and release of the revision and inheritance thereof to him and his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof the said John McGuire hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year first written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of John Brandon, and Sam Young.

Signed

JOHN MCGUIRE.

In addition to the above deed to John Cowden I found in the archives at Raleigh, N. C., the marriage bond of John Cowden to Jane Brown, which is in bad state of decay, yet legible for the most part. Only the last part of the bond has been preserved, which is as follows:

"The condition of the above obligiaon is such, whereas John Cowden has this day obligated himself to be married to Jane Brown, if there should not hereafter appear any cause to obstruct the same, then the above obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full.

Signed

Sealed and delivered in
the presence of
John Hrohock.

JOHN COWDEN, (seal)
GRIFFETH RUTHERFORD, (seal)
FRANCIS LOCK, (seal)

The above bond is marked on the back, John Cowden and Jane Brown, and dated March 25, 1768.

The above documents give the dates of the settling and starting of a home (1765-68). How long before this he immigrated to the state is not known. At the time of buying the above land he was thirty years of age, and thirty-three at his marriage. The emigration of Presbyterians from Scotland and Ireland to this country extended from about 1730-70; but, as the Cowdens settled first in Pennsylvania, it is not likely that John Cowden came to North Carolina until a short time before buying land there in 1765, which was the time of the settling of the western part of the state. The section of the state to which he came was the west-central, not in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but in sight of them among the foothills. This section is rolling with level, fertile valleys, and was originally covered with dense pine forests. The Cowdens settled on a fine body of land lying in the forks of the Yadkin River and Rocky Creek.

In addition to land purchased in deed above by John Cowden, I found on record at Statesville, county seat of Iredell County, a grant of land adjoining the above tract. The grant is by Governor R. Caswell to the sons of John Cowden, Mathew, John and William, and dated 1787, the calls of which, such as "lying on Main Rocky Branch" and calling for John McConnel's corner and Remington's corner and Butson's line and "the old line," show that it joined the above tract and contained five hundred acres, which, added to the first tract, must have aggregated something like a thousand acres.

From the description of the location of the land, I found the place easily, which I visited. It is located about ten or twelve miles northeast of Statesville, near the village of Turnersburg. You go a mile beyond Turnersburg, turn to the left and go a mile, and then another left turn for a mile across an old covered bridge over Rocky Creek, to the old home-place of the Cowdens, the land lying from there on in the forks of Rocky Creek and the

Yadkin River. The place is now owned by a family by the name of Harmon, but it was owned for many years by the Tomlins', who built a new house, leaving only the dining-room and kitchen of the old Cowden house, which is seen at the extreme left in the picture herein given. The house is on a hill in the center of a pine grove, and makes an imposing appearance. The old dining-room and kitchen of the old Cowden home are the most antique of any home that I have seen. The kitchen has an old-fashioned chimney with fireplace that will take a five- or six-foot stick of wood, with a large crane that holds four or five pots at once. Judging from these accommodations for cooking, the Cowdens, from the beginning, had plenty to eat and were great eaters, and have so continued to this day.

I also found on record at Salisbury the will of John Cowden, which is a very unique and interesting document that gives much information about the family, showing his relationship to the Pennsylvania Cowdens and the names of his children, namely: Mathew, John, William, Martha, and Elizabeth.

In the name of God, Amen, this the twenty-ninth day of May in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven, I, John Cowden, of North Carolina, Rowan County, Rocky Creek Settlement, but now in Paxton, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, farmer, being sick and weak but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God for it, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, and first commend my soul to Almighty God that gave it and my body to the earth to be decently buried. As for such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I do give and demise and dispose thereof in the following manner after all my just debts and funeral charges are paid, viz.: Imprints. I give and bequeath to Jean (or Jane), my well-beloved wife the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds, North Carolina currency to be one year after decease paid to her by my executors hereinafter mentioned, and likewise my roan mare and her saddle and her own bed and her clothes and one cow at her own choice and her chest, the pots and pewter she shall have at the old price of such articles. Item. My will is that the rale Estate, that is, to say, my land, which I now hold by deed or claim all from Richard Rimonton's lines on the South to or near Shirl's paith on the Great Shoals, to be equally divided amongst my three sons, viz.: Mathew, John, William, share and share alike, and that part of my land that is not now deeded I allow my executors to deed as soon as possible at the expence of my estate; that mare and colt, two cows and two calves, which were the claim of my son Mathew, to be equally divided amongst my three sons, share and share alike, but in case of any of my three sons should die before they arrive at the age of twenty years and without lawful issue, then my will is in such case that the said belong to the survivors or survivor, share and share alike. Item. I give and bequeath to my two daughters, viz., Elizabeth and Martha, each sixty pounds like lawful money, aforesaid to be paid out of my personal estate to be

raised as soon as convenient by my executors and put to the best use for said children; in case of one of my said daughters dies under age or without lawful heirs then in such a case it shall belong to the survivor. Item. My will is that after the before mentioned legacies and bequeathments are paid that the overplus, if any, of my personal estate be equally divided amongst my five children, share and share alike. Item. My will is that my family live together if they can live comfortably as long as my wife shall remain a widow. If my executors sees it makes advantageous to the whole so that my children may be schooled and educated in a Christian manner of said estate in such a case I allow my servant man James to remain as formerly, but in case of separation I allow him to be sold. I allow said James my roan mare's yearling filly. Item. My will is, if my wife sees it proper, that my brother John Gilchrist at his own request have my son John and my brother James Cowden at his own request have my son Mathew to clothe, school and educate at their own expense, which they are willing to engage and to perform. Item. I likewise constitute and appoint Wm. Sharp and Robert King executors of my last will and Testament, and disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other will, legacy and bequeathment heretofore by me in any wise made, ratifying this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have set to my hand and seal the day and year above written, etc., etc.

Signed, sealed, published and pronounced by the said John Cowden to be the last will and testament in the presence of Robert Gilchrist, Josiah White, Joseph McGuire, Wm. Irwin.

Acknowledged before Peter Hoofnagle, register, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

In connection with the above will of John Cowden I give herewith the will of his brother, William Cowden, a bachelor and soldier of the Revolutionary War, who died of camp fever at Yorktown. It is on record at the courthouse at Lancaster, and shows that they were brothers.

In the Name of God, Amen: this 29th day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one I William Cowden of the Township of Paxton, County of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory (thanks be to God) I therefore call to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament; that is to say: Principally and first of all I recommend my soul to God who gave it and as for my body I recommend it to the earth to be interred in a decent manner not doubting but that at the resurrection of the dead I shall receive the same again by the power of Almighty God. And touching such worldly substance as it hath pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose of in the following manner viz: Imprimis that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be paid out of the first money which is received of debts due me.

Item: I will and bequeath to my sister Mary my Beaver Hat and that to be in full of her part of my estate real and personal.

Item: I will and bequeath to my sisters Elizabeth and Rebecca the whole of the remainder of the money which is due me after the above debts and funeral expenses have been paid and what is here in after reserved and bequeathed are discharged share and share alike and also to my sister Rebecca forenamed my silver buckles and that to be in full their parts of my estate real and personal.

Item. I will and bequeath to my nephew, Matthew Gillcrest, the whole of my wearing apparel except so much as will not fit or suit him to wear and also my rhipel gun with all the accoutrements thereunto belonging.

Item: I will and bequeath to the sons of my brother John (dec'd), viz: Mathew, John and William all that Plantation or tract of land situated in the County of Westmoreland in Crooked Creek Settlement to them, their heirs and assigns, share and share alike but in case either of them should die before the time herein after mentioned for their entering into possession in that case the survivor or survivors is to enjoy and possess the whole but in case all of the aforementioned brothers, viz: Mathew, John and William should die that then and in that case the aforesaid plantation to descend to Matthew Gillcrest aforesaid and within named. The aforementioned shall not be sold or taken possession by either of the three brothers aforenamed until the youngest viz: William arrives at the full age of twenty-two years. I do empower James Cavet, one of my executors hereinafter appointed to reserve (of the money due me as it is collected) in his hand the sum of twenty pounds for the sole purpose of defraying the expenses that shall accrue to or upon the aforementioned plantation during the time the heirs are under age aforementioned that is to say the youngest of them, viz: William but in case the sum to be reserved is insufficient for that purpose I do empower my executors herein after named to act in that case as they shall deem proper touching said land.

I also will and bequeath to Mathew Cowden the eldest of the brothers aforesaid my bridle and saddle and such part of my wearing apparel as shall not be accepted of by Matthew Gillcrest aforesaid. Item: I give and bequeath to my niece Martha Gillcrest (my sister Margaret's daughter) the sum of three pounds. I do ordain constutute appoint James Cochran and James Cavet both of the Township of Paxton my only and sole executors of this my last will and testament and I do hereby utterly revoke disallow and disannul all former wills and testaments legacies executors hereinbefore by me in any way willed bequeathed ratifying and confirming this to be my last will and testament and no other. In witness whereof I have hereon set my hand and seal the day and year above within written.

WILLIAM COWDEN.

Witness:

JAMES COWDEN
JOHN GILLCREST

The above wills prove conclusively that the John Cowden of North Carolina was a son of Mathew Cowden, of Pennsylvania. In the first place, his will was written while back there on a visit, and most likely while a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The Pennsylvania war records show two John Cowdens, one of whom was from Chester County, son of Robert Cowden, the other was

doubtless the above John Cowden. His brother, James Cowden, was captain of the regiment, which accounts for his enlisting in Pennsylvania. Furthermore, John Cowden's will speaks of his brother, James, and his brother-in-law, John Gillchrist, who married Margurett Cowden. Also, the will of Mathew Cowden speaks of his grandson, Mathew Cowden, who is mentioned in John Cowden's will, and the will of William Cowden speaks of his nephews, Mathew, John and William, who are the sons given in John Cowden's will, of North Carolina. Furthermore, the will of Benjamin Cowden, the youngest son of Mathew Cowden, is on record at Salisbury, N. C., along with John Cowden's will, which shows that they lived and died there together, which indicates that they were brothers. Also, John Cowden of North Carolina had a son, Mathew, who was named after his grandfather, Mathew Cowden; and the names of his other two sons, John and William, also indicate the family of Mathew Cowden. William Cowden of Pennsylvania left his farm to his brother John's sons, Mathew, John and William, who are the three sons of John Cowden of North Carolina. All of these facts taken together leave no doubt that John Cowden of North Carolina was the son of Mathew Cowden, of Paxtang, Pa., one of the Irish Cowden immigrants.

Some confusion has arisen as to John Cowden's military record in the War for Independence, because, though then living in Rowen County, N. C., he registered in the war from Lancaster County, Pa., his old home, which was doubtless due to the fact that his brother, Captain James Cowden, raised a company from that county, and he wished to be in this company; or some unknown circumstances might have led to his registering from his old home county. His will above shows that he was back in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1777, and sick, doubtless from soldiering. His brother, William, died in 1881 of fever in camp at Yorktown, having willed his property to the three sons of John, to whom he referred as being dead. (See will above and Cowden genealogies by Welch and Cummings.) The Pennsylvania War Archives by Montgomery, pages 809, 817 and 829, show that there were the following Cowdens registered in Dunn's Militia: John Cowden, Captain James Cowden, Hendrey Cowden, Robert Cowden, and John Cowden, the last two of whom were father and son from Chester County, Pa. (See genealogy, Cowden-Gilliland, by Robert Cowden.) As shown above, the Pennsylvania genealogies by Egle and Cowden genealogy by Welch are in error as to John

Cowden, son of Mathew Cowden, of Lancaster County, Pa. This John Cowden did not live and die in Cumberland County, Pa., but in Rowen County, N. C.; and it is herein claimed that he returned to Lancaster County, Pa. to register in the war, and he is the John Cowden recorded in Montgomery's Archives as a soldier from this county. The Pennsylvania Cowdens recognize the above errors and have changed their genealogies accordingly; and the D. A. R. authorities are being petitioned to change their records in harmony with these established facts that there may be no further confusion and doubt as to the membership of the proven descendants of John Cowden. Furthermore, the records of Rowen County, N. C. show that John Cowden was on the Committee of Safety, which makes his descendants eligible for the D. A. R. Society. Also, the records at Raleigh, N. C. show that he was paid about \$2,500.00 for supplies for the American army, which shows his alliance and zeal.

John Cowden died some time between the date of the above will, 1777, and 1781, the date of his brother William's will, in which he is spoken of as deceased, most likely soon after writing his will, as he was critically sick then. His will shows him to have been a man of great intelligence and deep religious devotion. He was a devout Presbyterian. This shows why he did not settle in Virginia, but passed on through to North Carolina, because Virginia at that time had a state church, the Episcopal, and other faiths were discouraged and persecuted. The Cowdens of Pennsylvania were Presbyterians, and most all the Cowdens since have continued in that church or some branch of the Presbyterian household.

The Cowdens continued to live in North Carolina until the western tide of emigration into Tennessee, Georgia and Kentucky, 1800-20, when they moved into these states. In addition to the Cowdens of Iredell County, there were the families of Samuel and Robert Cowden, whose children also moved west into Georgia about the beginning of the nineteenth century. In fact, all the Cowdens seemed to have moved out of North Carolina at this time or later, as I could find no Cowdens there today. Mathew Cowden, oldest son of John Cowden, must have returned to Pennsylvania, as we find no further record of him in the South. He doubtless went to the farm left to him and his brothers by his uncle, William Cowden of Pennsylvania, having purchased the interests of his brothers, John and William, who moved westward into Tennessee. His marriage to Margurett Nelson is re-

corded in Pennsylvania, which shows that he went to that state; however, nothing further of his history is known. Also, I find no record of what became of Martha Cowden; however, her name, which was the name of the Irish emigrant grandmother, wife of Mathew Cowden, has been perpetuated in the family down to the present. The name, Mathew, however, has been dropped, which is regrettable, as that was the name of our Irish emigrant. The other three children of John Cowden of North Carolina, John, William and Elizabeth, moved westward into Marshall County, Tenn., whose history is given in the following chapters.

WILLIAM COWDEN

The first of John Cowden's family to leave North Carolina was William who, selling his land, 470 acres on the north branch of Rocky Creek, to his brother, John, in 1800, moved to Garrard County, Ky., and moved from there to Marshall County, Tenn., to the section that was then a part of Maury County, some time about 1810, as shown by a deed for the purchase of some slaves that year. He afterwards bought several tracts of land lying on Globe Creek, Silver Creek, Flat Creek and Duck River, aggregating several hundred acres, in the vicinity of Mooresville. He opened a sugar camp for the making of maple sugar, which was the only source of sugar in that day. His wife was Betsy Cowden, who was a Scott before her marriage in North Carolina, and was known by some as Emiline, so her name must have been Elizabeth Emiline. According to their oldest living descendant, A. M. S. Record, they had three sons, Josephus, Brandon and James S., and one daughter, Emily. There also appears as a witness in court with Emily M. Cowden the name of Elizabeth M. Cowden, who was either a daughter or his wife. Josephus Cowden died in youth; Brandon Cowden was killed in the War Between the States; James Cowden married a Peables, and lived near Culleoka, Tenn. and Emily Cowden married Sion Record, and reared a family in Marshall County. One report, however, sent in by a member of this family, says that James S. Cowden and Emily Cowden were children of James Cowden, son of William Cowden, which fits better into generation dates.

James S. Cowden lived near Culleoka, Tenn., where he had a beautiful, hospitable home, and reared one child, Irene, who married a Methodist preacher by the name of Osteen, and afterwards moved to Texas, where she died several years ago, leaving two sons in Dallas, whose names I do not know, and one daughter, Mrs. W. L. Sledge, 618 Dalzell St., Shreveport, La.

Emily Cowden married Sion Record, one of the able pioneer Methodist preachers in Marshall County, who died early in his ministry, of pneumonia, contracted at a funeral service. Their children were as follows: Sarah Elizabeth Medora, a talented and brilliant woman with a seraphic smile, who married W. W. Walker, Lewisburg, Tenn., but afterwards became a teacher in Middle and West Tennessee; and William David Leo Record, who studied law under W. N. Cowden and located at Lynchburg, Tenn., where he lived and practiced his profession, becoming an able and eloquent lawyer. He married Sue Dance, whose children are as follows: Sion T. (dec'd), Mary (Mrs. A. J. Morgan), Eula, J. Dance (dec'd), Dora (Mrs. R. E. Shelton), Emily (Mrs. W. K. Parks, dec'd), Estill (Mrs. W. R. Mitchell), Finettie and Dr. W. D. L.; and Albert Moody Sion Record, youngest son of Emily Cowden Record, who has one son, Leo, Birmingham, Ala.

SARAH ELIZABETH COWDEN

If the date, 1809, given in Goodspeed's History as the birth of Cowden McCord, in Williamson County, is correct, his family, whose mother was Elizabeth Cowden, daughter of John Cowden, of Iredell County, N. C., were living here then, so she must have been the first Cowden immigrant into Tennessee. Some knew her as Sarah, so her name must have been Sarah Elizabeth. I have been able to gather but few facts concerning her family. Her son, Cowden McCord, married Sarah Williams, and reared a family of eight children in Marshall County, namely: Henry G., Robert Allen (dec'd), Nannie (Mrs. Jas. A. Wood), Della (Mrs. John Covington), Cora (Mrs. Dan Clayton), David and Sallie (dec'd). Their children and families still live in Middle Tennessee, a partial record of whom is as follows:

1. Henry G. McCord: children, Marks, Nashville, Tenn.; Ogilvie; Pammie (Mrs. Clarence Giles); Sarah; Manella (Mrs. King); Joe; Nannie Laura.

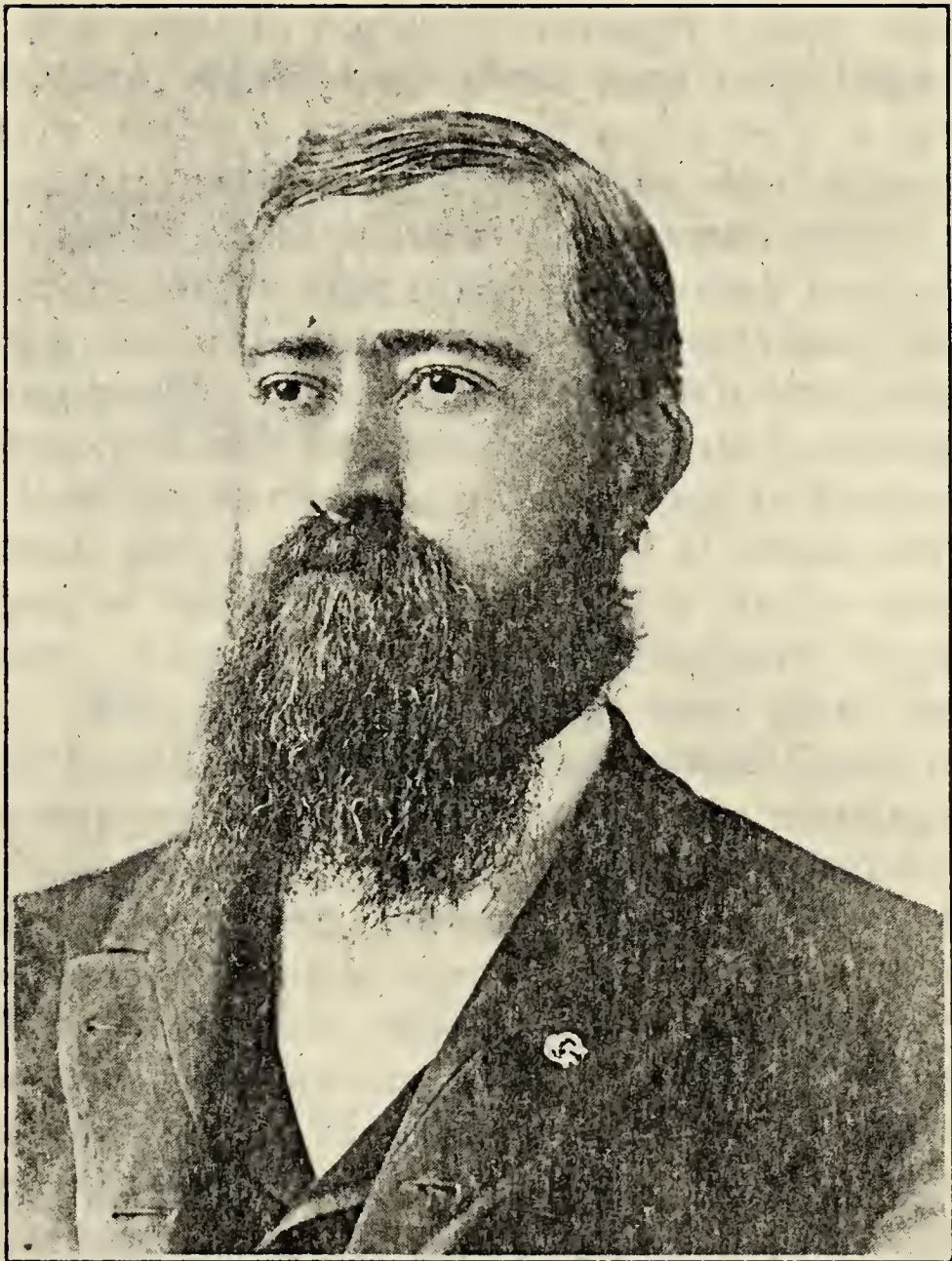
2. Robert Allen McCord: children, Robbie, Clifford, Mary (Mrs. Anderson), Geneva, Edwin, Hugh.

3. Mrs. Nannie Woods: children, B. M. (wife, Vera Fowler), James, Margurett (dec'd). B. M. has two children, Margurett and Edwin, and James two, James Watson and Sarah.

4. Mrs. Della Covington, College Grove, Tenn.: children, Joe Cowden (dec'd), John.

5. Mrs. Cora Clayton, Lewisburg, Tenn.: children, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, Pulaski, Tenn.; Mrs. Lucile Stephens, Petersburg, Tenn.; Everet Clayton, Belle Meade, Nashville, Tenn.; Marvin Clayton, Lewisburg, Tenn.

6. David McCord, Triune, Tenn.: children, Haynes, Roy and Claude.



W. D. L. Record, Lynchburg, Tenn.

JOHN COWDEN II

John Cowden with his family moved from North Carolina to Marshall County about 1818, as he sold his North Carolina holdings that year; however, it took six weeks or two months to make the journey. Last year I went over the road in a car, traveled by the Cowdens, moving to Marshall County in wagons, and it took two days' hard driving, averaging twenty-five miles per hour. As we sped over smooth highways through valleys and over hills and mountains, where then there were only blazed wilderness roads, over which a wagon could make only a few miles a day, I was made to realize, as never before, what strong, sturdy, indomitable people these pioneer frontiersmen were. I wish that someone in the family that made the journey had left a written account of it; but unfortunately the Cowdens have not been a record-keeping people. Their deeds and their traditions are the only sources upon which we have had to draw in writing their history. John Cowden, at the time of his moving to Tennessee, was a married man with a large family, some of whom were married, with children of their own; and the whole family came together to Tennessee. John Cowden married Elizabeth Norris in North Carolina. Many of her descendants were given her maiden name, and it is still the given name of several Cowdens today. The old county records containing the early marriages in Iredell County, N. C. were destroyed in a fire, so I could find no trace of their marriage. But, anyway, John and his wife brought ample proofs of their marriage along with them into Tennessee—a large family of nine children, four boys and five girls, the oldest of whom, Jane, was married to Silas McClelland, with a three-year-old baby, Lee McClelland, and the youngest, three-year-old twins, Humphrey and Elizabeth (Betsy). The names of the children were as follows: the boys, John B., Brandon W., William and Humphrey Norris; and the girls, Jane, Sally, Sukey, Polly and Betsy, all of whom, except two, John B. and Brandon W., married and left families, who will be herein and hereafter accounted for.

John Cowden with his family selected one of the best sections of Tennessee in which to settle. They came and settled on the headwaters of Richland Creek in the southern part of Marshall County, which was then the northwestern part of Lincoln County, buying land out of the Martin Armstrong 5,000-acre grant, No. 125, which included the land on each side of Richland Creek, a

valley of as fertile and beautiful land as there is in the world. The country store, Ostello, is situated in about the center of this valley; and a thousand acres or more of this land remained in the family until a few years ago, when it was sold by the children of John C. Cowden. I do not know how much nor the exact location of the original tract purchased by John Cowden. His first deed, for some reason, is not on record at Fayetteville, Tenn.; but there are two later deeds to him in 1827 and 1833, for adjoining tracts of 154 and 80 acres, calling for points in land already owned by him. He must have brought with him something near \$1,500 or \$2,000 in cash from North Carolina, as he sold one tract there for \$1,100, which was only about half of what he owned. This amount in that day would have been sufficient to buy a large farm. I hope some time to locate his old homesite and original farm. The Humphrey Cowden or Wysong place, one mile east of Ostello Store, from the best information I can gather, is thought to be it or a part of it. His children married; and most of them settled in this same valley; their homes are easily located today.

JANE COWDEN

Jane (1798-1864), who was married to Silas McClelland in North Carolina, settled at the upper end of the valley near Spring Place, whose children were Frank, who left no heirs, and William Lee, who married, first, Mary Chambliss, who died leaving two children, and he afterwards married her sister, Sarah, from whom he had three children, Fernando, John, Zana (Mrs. W. W. Ogilvie), Martha (Mrs. A. E. Reed), and Ada (died unmarried). The McClellands have been one of the leading families of Marshall County from the beginning, prominent and influential. Silas McClelland was a pillar of society in pioneer days, and his son, William Lee, was a typical aristocratic Southern gentleman, whose colonial mansion, now owned by his daughter, Mrs. W. W. Ogilvie, remains as a monument to his memory. He twice represented the county in the Legislature, and was active in social, political and business affairs throughout his life. This beautiful home is on the highway between Lewisburg and Cornersville, and remains a home of the old Southern type and ideals. Mr. Ogilvie, deceased, was a civic and business leader in Marshall County and the Commissioner of Agriculture in Tennessee, a man who was deservedly popular and influential.

Fernando S. McClelland, a successful farmer and man of wide influence in Marshall County, married Mary Plattenburg, of

Alabama, and had nine children, three of whom are now living, Sadie (Mrs. Cox) in Iowa; George, of Kansas City, and Martha (Mrs. McClure) in St. Louis. John McClelland, lawyer of Nashville, had six children: Mrs. Sarah Roberts, Oklahoma; Mrs. Harrison Williams, Paris, Tenn.; Mrs. Alice Patton, Springfield; Mantrue, Nashville. Martha McClelland married Mr. Read, moved to Louisiana, where they had nine children, two of whom are now living: Mrs. Kathleen Read Comtz, a writer of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Elaine Read Henry, of Alexandria, Egypt, also a writer.

ELIZABETH (BETSY) COWDEN

Elizabeth (Betsy) Cowden married Joseph Jordan Brown and moved to Texas in 1851, where they reared their family. Tradition has it that she was the twin sister of Humphrey, born in 1816, the youngest child; but a newspaper account of her death in Milford, Texas, in 1890, says that she was born in North Carolina in 1808, which makes her next youngest to William. This account of her death speaks of her life and character as follows: "Thus another of the grand old mothers is gone to her 'home over there'. She was in all her long life a model Christian mother, with a heart full of love of God, and charity for the poor and needy. She had been a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for more than sixty years." She had eight children, who reared families in and near Milford, Texas, who are prominent and influential citizens and business men of that section. Since they moved to Texas in 1851, the Cowdens of Tennessee have had very little knowledge of and contact with them. We are glad to be brought into touch with them again. We are indebted to Mrs. Sue Rosson for the following statement of these families:

1. John Brown, whose children are Betty, Jordan (dec'd), Maude, Brooksie, Ross and John, Jr. Their children not reported.

2. Mary Jane Brown (1831), Milford, Texas, married William Lowe Rosson, 1849, in Tennessee. I quote the following from a local newspaper report of her death: "Mrs. Rosson was one of the oldest and most benevolent pioneers of Ellis County. Her benevolence through these many years is remembered and lauded by the scores who have been blessed by her kindness and ever-ready helping hand. She had been an active, faithful member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for more than fifty years. Her willingness to help the sick and suffering was never daunted, often going twenty miles or more to help the needy. Her children are:

- Albert E., whose children are Mae (Mrs. Bryan), Joe (dec'd), Willie, Bub, Annie (Mrs. Smith) and Frank (dec'd).

John W., whose children are Effie (Mrs. Parker, dec'd), Lula, Adam, Clemmie (Mrs. Noell), Johnnie, Carrie Mae (Mrs. Warren).

Twins, Joe Brown (dec'd) and George C., whose children are Joe, George Jr. (dec'd), Lena, Ruel, Mattie Lowe and Mary Emma."

3. Sally Brown, who married Frank Parks, Italy, Texas, whose children are Thomas, John (dec'd), twins, Ida and Ada (Mrs. Davidson, one child, Ruth), Joe (whose children are Wilma Marie, Joe Artis and Frank), and Inez (whose children are Mildred (Mrs. Sweat) and Kathleen).

4. Lizzie Brown, who married John D. Couchman, Milford, Texas, whose children are Joe and Mollie (both dec'd), George (whose children are Floyd, Dayton, George D. and Sue Belle), Eliza (dec'd), Emma (dec'd), Ida (dec'd) and Sue (Mrs. W. W. Darrow), who has one son, Joe Couchman.

5. Eliza Brown, who married Lafayette McGilton, Graham, Texas, whose children are Brownie, Mattie (Mrs. Kysinger), Sue (Mrs. Anderson), Mollie (Mrs. Dowdle), Sallie and Jordan.

6. Susan Brown, who married Tom Williams, Milford, Texas, whose children are Mary (Mrs. Jim Davis), children, Sue, George, Jim (dec'd), Tom and Earl; Edd (dec'd), whose children are Bush, Lake (dec'd), Jene and Edd, Jr.; John (dec'd), one child, Fay); Lizzie (Mrs. C. L. Davis), children, French and Mary Ruth; Jordan, whose children are Vloys and Julia; and Jim (dec'd), whose children are Ruth, Prue, Paul, John Scott, Enid, Cary, Leroy and Wayne.

7. Joseph Brown, who died without heirs.

8. Mattie Brown, who married Humphrey Davis, Milford, Texas. They had no children. Humphrey Davis's mother was Sallie Cowden Davis, sister of Betsy Cowden Brown.

SUSAN (SUKEY) COWDEN

Sukey Cowden married Samuel W. Cooper, by whom she had two sons, Frank Locke Cooper, who married Widow Narciss Lawrence, who had one daughter, Otey, who married Dr. Jones first, by whom she had three daughters, whose names were Ikie (Mrs. Boyd), Georgie (Mrs. Wilkerson), and Jenny (Mrs. Orr); and after his death she married Hyde, by whom she had one daughter. The other son, Pinkie Cooper, married and moved to Texas, whose children were Billie, Eddie and John. John's children are Claude (children, Mary and Elmer); Walter (children, Mary Lee and Billie); Ethel (Mrs. Dr. Buie, child, Mary Frances); Robert (one child, Mary Jane); and Charlie (one child, Mary Ivis).

POLLY COWDEN

Polly Cowden married first a Cook, by whom she had one son, Dr. William Cook, who was a prominent physician of Nashville, Tenn., and died in early manhood, leaving one daughter, Annie May, who married Thomas Spain, a traveling salesman, whose children are Will C. and Howard. Mrs. Spain lives in Nashville,

Tenn. After the death of Mr. Cook, Polly Cowden married a Collins and moved to Springfield, Mo., by whom she had a son, Dr. John Collins.

SALLY COWDEN

Sally and William Cowden married brother and sister, Payne and Rhoda Davis, which made their children double first cousins. Payne Davis was a prominent lawyer in Lewisburg, Tenn., one of the original bar when the county was formed. They had six children: Humphrey, who went to Texas and married his cousin, Mattie Brown, having no children; Lou, who married a Hardison, whose children still live in Marshall County, of whom Payne Hardison, of Lewisburg, business man and county official, is one; Sally, who married a Dark, whose children still live in Marshall County and Middle Tennessee; Mollie, who married, first, Jim Jones and moved to Texas, whose children are Fannie, Ollie, Mattie, Claude, Minerva and Eva. William and James died in the Civil War, unmarried.

William Cowden, as stated above, married Rhoda Davis, who were my grandparents, whose descendants and history will be given in a separate chapter.

Humphrey Cowden married Emmiline Clayton, whose descendants will be given in a succeeding chapter.

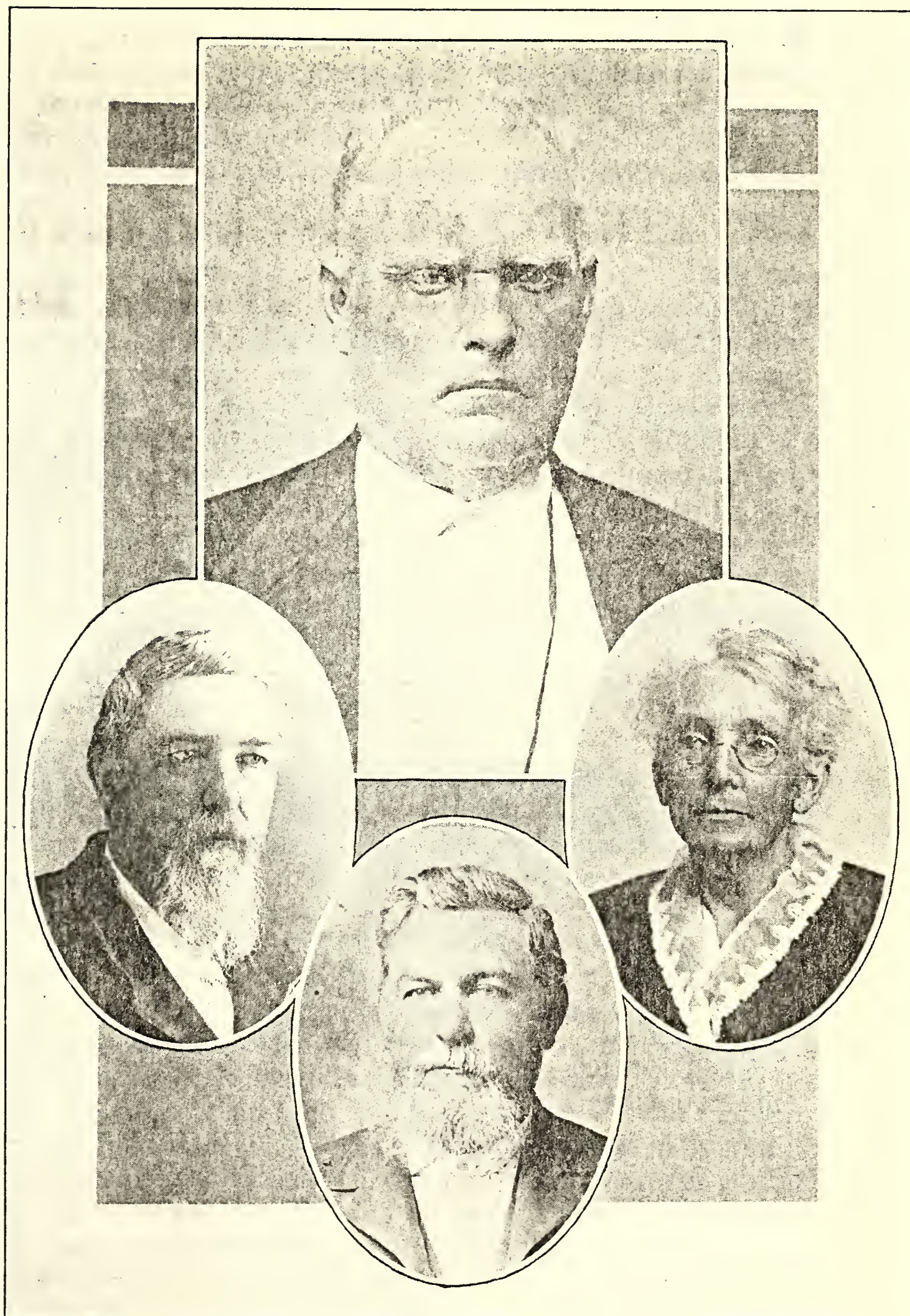
John B. Cowden was the one member of the family that has dropped out of the history of the family. No living member of the family ever heard him spoken of; and I would never have known that there was such a person except for finding a deed on record at Fayetteville, where John Cowden deeded him a tract of land in the Cowden neighborhood, which indicates that he was a member of the family. What became of him—whether he died or moved away—is not known.

Brandon W. Cowden was the old bachelor of the family, after whom I, John Brandon Cowden, was named. My grandmother Cowden named me, saying that Brandon Cowden requested that his name be perpetuated in the family, which is being done, as I have one nephew and one great-nephew by that name. Brandon must have been a family name back in North Carolina, as the name of John Brandon is signed as a witness to the deed of the original John Cowden. Brandon W. Cowden lived for some time in Lewisburg, as deeds to local real estate show.

CHAPTER VII

HUMPHREY NORRIS COWDEN (1816-1886) AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Humphrey N. Cowden was the youngest of John Cowden's children, born in 1816, being only three years of age when he came to Marshall County, Tenn., where he lived to an advanced old age. He is the only one of the older Cowdens that I ever saw. He was married three times: first, to Emmaline Clayton; second, to the Widow Paterson; and third, to the Widow Ervine. By the first marriage he had six children, namely: Dee, Amanda, Clemintine, Elizabeth, John Clayton and Worth Norris; from his second marriage one child, Innis, and no children from his third marriage. His home was one mile east of Ostello Store, the farm that was later known as the Wysong place, which is thought to be his father's old homeplace. He reared his family here, and afterwards moved into Lewisburg, where he died. "Uncle Umph," as we all knew him, was a very unique character. He was one of the well-known men of the county in his day, active in public life, having held several public offices. He was Trustee of the county, Chancery Court Clerk, and represented the county two or three terms in the State Legislature. He had a flair for politics, was deservedly popular with the people. According to the custom of politicians of his day, he wore a high silk hat, a long Prince Albert coat with white vest, and looked the part of an old fashioned Southern gentleman. He drank a little, swore a little, chewed much tobacco and spat all over creation, but with all was a high-toned gentleman with strong convictions and high ideals, and very plain-spoken under all circumstances. It was told of him that in a revival meeting in Cornersville during the War Between the States, when Dodge's army was encamped near there, at Pulaski, and his men were scouring the country, taking nearly everything the people had in the way of food and livestock, when the preacher prayed that God would send down



Humphrey Norris Cowden and three of his children, John C. Cowden, Mrs. Clemmie Cowden Leonard, and Worth Norris Cowden.

fire out of heaven upon the heads of these men, Uncle Umph arose in the back of the church and shouted, "Amen! by God!" There was no irreverence or profanity in it, because he meant it more than the preacher; however, the humor of the thing came near breaking up the meeting.

Here is another incident in his life that shows his poise and ready reply when the tables were turned against him. It occurred in his joint speaking campaign with Mr. Crowe, who was the opposing candidate for Floterial Representative. They were speaking at Fayetteville, Tenn., and Mr. Crowe, speaking first, was running over his allotted time; so Uncle Umph, sitting behind him on the platform, reached forward and gave his coat-tail a jerk to notify him that his time was up; but Mr. Crowe paid no attention to him; so, after a minute or so, Uncle Umph jerked his coat again, then again. Finally, Mr. Crowe turned around, pulled out a bottle of whiskey from his pocket and said, "Here, Umph, take it, and let me alone." The crowd roared with laughter and shouts. Uncle Umph arose with the bottle in his hand and said, "Mr. Crowe is living true to his name, trying to entrap me with his cunning. He takes a drink behind your backs; I take a drink before your faces," putting the bottle to his lips and taking a nip. The election showed that he got the votes of the people.

Uncle Umph was also a kind and charitable man; and while he had little active connection with the church, he had "the pure and undefiled religion" that did good onto those in need. It is said of him that he made no effort to keep the poor from stealing from him, but told them to come in the daytime and get what they needed. Mrs. Will Cowden, of Oneonta, Ala., has written an interesting and gripping short story based on an instance of his charity in receiving into his home a sick, destitute wagon-traveler who, with his family, was on his way back to Kentucky from the west, but died in his home. Uncle Umph buried the man at his own expense, and helped the family on their way, and later in life was richly rewarded by a member of the family for his kindness. I wish that our limited space would allow the publication of the story in full. Uncle Umph reared a useful and honorable family, whose children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are active men and women in various parts of the country, and who are herein given. After the marriage of his children he moved into Lewisburg, in 1871, where he died in

1886 and was buried in Old New Hope graveyard, three miles east of Cornersville.

DEE COWDEN

His oldest daughter, Dee, married William Orr, and moved to Memphis, Texas. They had nine children, part of whom are, namely: Norris, Porter, Milton, Florence, and Elsie.

MARTHA AMANDA COWDEN

Martha Amanda Cowden married W. C. (Dock) Davis, and also moved to Texas. They had three children, namely:

1. W. H. Davis, Avalon, Texas, whose children are Eloise Davis Smith, 118 West Latimer Street, Tulsa, Okla; Madrine Davis Feaster, Avalon, Texas; and Maynie Davis Mercer, Muskogee, Okla.

2. N. C. Davis, Albany, Texas, whose children are Lottie Davis Crowe, Albany, Texas; Earl H. Davis, 5725 Prospect Ave., Dallas Texas; and Orvil Davis, Pittsburg Plate Glass Co., Houston, Texas.

3. Clemmie Cowden Davis, who married Dr. J. C. Colley, Italy, Texas. They had five children, namely: Ollie Amanda, who died in youth, Mary Queen, Clemmie Alma, Mabel Lee and Edna, who died in infancy. Clemmie Alma Colley married Cole Y. Bailey, having one child, Carson Alfred, educated at Washington and Lee, Lexington, Va.—Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and lives in San Antonio, Texas, Fredericksburg Road. Mabel Lee Colley married D. R. Chapman, Bay City, Texas, and they have four children, namely: Elenor, graduate of Kingsville College, D. R. Jr., Alma Queen and Mabel Colley. Mary Queen Colley, graduate of Baylor College, 1904, married Dr. Ernest Sullivan, graduate of Barnes Medical, St. Louis, Mo., 1907, and now a prominent physician, 400 East Fourteenth Street, Oklahoma City, Okla. They have three children, Joseph Harold, graduate of Washington and Lee University, 1932—Beta Theta Pi fraternity, Mary Josephene, educated at Gulfport, Miss., "Holton-Arms," Washington, D. C., and graduate of Oklahoma University, 1933—Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, and Frances Grace, now in high school.

ELIZABETH COWDEN

Elizabeth Cowden married a Bowden and reared a family of nine children in Marshall County, living most of the time near Lewisburg. The names of the children are as follows: James, John, Pete, Anna, Mylesker, Josie, Fannie, Fronie, and Will. I am not informed as to marriages and children, nor their present homes, but several of them, I think, still live in Marshall County.

INNIS COWDEN

Innis Cowden married John Caldwell and had one child, Cora, who is married to Eugene Taylor and lives near Delina,

Marshall County. They have two children, Vivian (Mrs. Renegar), and Opal.

JOHN CLAYTON COWDEN

John Clayton Cowden married Belle Parks, a daughter of Moses Parks, a wealthy farmer in the old Cowden community, and lived in this section until his death. He was a very successful farmer and livestock dealer, owning at his death about 1,000 acres of very fertile land and much livestock. He specialized in mules, fattening and selling a hundred or more each year. He was a man of truest integrity, and stood high in the business affairs of the county. He was a quiet man, without show or parade, but wise and firm in all his dealings. Like most of the Cowden men, as he grew older he took on a great deal of flesh; and, not being of a large and tall frame, he was burdened with weight in his last years; but his great amount of energy kept him active in spite of this. He was one of Marshall County's outstanding men in his day, and left his impression on his day and generation for good. He had three children: Hattie, May and Walter. Hattie married Joe Fowler and lived only a year or so after her marriage. May married George Hawkins and lives in Lewisburg, having one son, John Walter, now grown. Walter married Saline Hayes and lives in Lewisburg also. They have no children of their own, but adopted a daughter, Jean. He is a livestock dealer, and interested in the Borden milk canning business.

WORTH NORRIS COWDEN

Worth Norris Cowden was the marrying member of the family; he married five times, and each time a very excellent woman. Knowing the man, you would not be surprised at this, because he was a very charming man, such a man as any good woman would wish to marry. He was what you would call "good company" in any crowd. Though uneducated, since he grew up during and after the Civil War when there were no schools, he had a pleasing personality and approach to everyone, and was at home in any place, high or low. He was jolly with a fine sense of humor, and laughed and talked his way into the hearts of all. He was unfortunate in losing his wives by death. His first wife was Alpha Leonard, who left two children, Emmet and Jennie May. His second wife was Hattie Hart, who left one child, Lucile. His third wife was Mollie Buchanan, who also left one child, Lizzie. His last two wives, Elnora Buchanan and Nannie Vance, had no

children. He was a successful farmer, living three miles north of Petersburg, Tenn. Like his brother, John C., he became very fleshy, only more so; but he was a jolly fat man. One hot August day, while sitting on his front porch trying to keep cool, an agent came up asking to enlarge his picture. He said to the agent, "Go away from here, man; I am larger now than I want to be." The agent replied, "Well, perhaps your wife would like hers enlarged." He answered, "She is larger than I am," and laughed the agent out of the yard without an order; the agent himself went off laughing. He had a very strong voice, loud enough to give orders to the farmhands anywhere on his 200-acre farm from the house in the center. He would have made the greatest singer in the world, if he had had a talent for music; however, he had the music of joy in his heart that kept him and those about him happy.

Emmett Cowden made a teacher of himself, graduating from George Peabody College for Teachers in 1902, and later married Ella Hudspeth, of Texas. He has taught in Texas for the most part, having been professor of science in one of the high schools, Fort Worth, Texas, for a number of years, and still holds that position.

Jenny May Cowden married Robert McKnight of Petersburg, Tenn., owns and lives on her father's farm north of Petersburg. They have four children, Robbie May, married to Joe McAdams, has one child, and lives on an adjoining farm; Charlie Worth, a traveling salesman, married an Oklahoma girl, and lives in Dallas, Texas; Ruth is a teacher in Tennessee; and Wayne is a student in the University of Tennessee.

Lucille Cowden married Odie Fox, of Petersburg, and moved to Oklahoma, where she died, leaving one daughter.

Lizzie Cowden married George Riley, of Oklahoma City, where they now live. She has two children, Fred, who is married, and has a grown daughter.

CLEMMIE COWDEN

Mary Clemmie Cowden, whom we all knew as "Aunt Clem," married Samuel J. Leonard, the brother of Worth Cowden's first wife, Alpha Leonard, and also the brother of Dr. John Cowden's wife, Mary Leonard Cowden. The Cowdens and Leonards, prominent pioneer families of Marshall County, were thrice intermarried, which made their descendants very close kin. As Pleas More, one of the old family slaves, said to my mother on a visit to see her in her old age, presenting his last wife, the wife of his old age, "Miss May, there are not many of us left, but we are mighty close kin. I wanted Lindy to see some of my white folks." While the whites and blacks in slave days were not related by

blood, they were nevertheless "mighty close kin,"—members of a common household and family, who in most cases loved each other dearly. The Cowdens and Leonards were not only of the closest blood relationship, but they (the second generation of them) lived on adjoining farms, and felt more like brothers and sisters than cousins. Aunt Clem and Uncle Sam reared a large family on their farm three and one-half miles north of Petersburg, five boys and three girls, who according to age are as follows: Emma, Norris and Jim (twins), May, John, Tom A., Cella and Robert.

Aunt Clem was a great woman, as near to Solomon's "worthy woman" as any I have ever known. Notwithstanding the scanty resources of her day, her household never lacked. She was a model mother and a perfect housekeeper. Her biscuits were poems in flour, milk and lard, the perfection of the culinary art; and when spread with butter from the old spring-house with some of Uncle Sam's honey, they were food for the gods, to say nothing of a hungry boy such as I was. Her children and grandchildren are as follows:

Emma Leonard was a teacher in the schools of Tennessee for a number of years, and afterwards married Thomas McAdams, and lives in Petersburg, Tenn.

Norris C. Leonard is a dentist, having practiced his profession successfully for a number of years in Nashville, Tenn., after which he moved to Baltimore, Md., where he is now a dental orthopedist. He has been twice married, first to Annie Gillespie, of Petersburg, Tenn., whose two small children died before her. After her death he married Susie Black, of McMinnville, Tenn., whose children are Jene, Richard and Nancy Emmett.

James J. Leonard married Carrie Neill and moved to Oklahoma City, where he is a successful cotton dealer. They have no children.

May Leonard married Thomas Wilson; they live in Lewisburg, where they reared their family, as follows: Mary Clayton, Madge (dec'd), Leonard, Joe and John.

John W. Leonard was a doctor, dying a few years after he began practice of his profession. He was a young man of ability and promise. He died unmarried.

Thomas Amos Leonard was a dentist of Nashville, Tenn., where he practiced his profession successfully for a number of years. He died recently. He married Octa Smart, of McMinnville, Tenn., who survives him, with her two children. Mary Elizabeth married Ralph McGill, journalist, Atlanta, Ga.; Amos is in business in Nashville, Tenn.

Robert Leonard is a business man in Nashville in the service of the Tennessee Electric Power Company. He married Elizabeth Patterson, of Georgia. They have one son, Robert (adopted).

Cella Leonard is unmarried, and lives in Washington, D. C., where she has a position in government service.

CHAPTER VII

WILLIAM COWDEN (1806-1839) AND HIS DESCENDANTS

William Cowden, son of John Cowden, who brought his family from North Carolina to Tennessee, was a boy twelve years of age when they came. Nothing is known of his youth and young manhood. He married at twenty-one years of age, Rhoda Davis, who was sixteen, and lived about four miles south of the Cowdens; they started a home in the Cowden neighborhood, one mile west of Ostello Store. In 1832 he bought a tract of land, 65 acres, sold by decree of Circuit Court of Davidson County, Tenn., suit, Heirs of John Childress vs. Heirs of Jenkins Whiteside, and built a three-room log-house with hallroom between. The place is known today as the Bud Sweeny place, and is owned by a man by the name of Davis. The log rooms have been weather-boarded, and a back ell and front porch added, which makes a very pretty country home. A picture of the place is herein given. He afterwards bought a separate tract of land, 100 acres, on the headwaters of Swann Creek, adjoining Joshua Wall.

He was a blacksmith and cabinet maker, and had a shop near the house. I have a beautiful red cherry chest of drawers which he made, an heirloom which has descended through the family to me. There was also a beautiful four-poster bed in the family, which he made, but this has been lost in some way. He had six children, the first three of whom died within two weeks of scarlet fever; the other three, John, William Norris and Martha, lived to old age, and reared large families in Marshall County. William Cowden was said by all that knew him to be a man of high ideals and excellent character. He died of appendicitis in middle life, at the age of thirty-three, and is buried in Old New Hope graveyard a mile or two west of his home, with his three children. His grave has a stone roof of solid masonry over it, as also have the children's. The marble marker, erected a few years ago by the family, has erroneous dates of his birth and death, which should

be 1806-1839. It is a shrine that all his descendants some time should visit.

The following is his will, which I found on record in Lewisburg. He died while his children were small, so they must have had no knowledge of this will, as I never heard my father speak of it, or any other member of the family, so I publish it.

"I William Cowden do make and publish this my will and testament, hereby revoking and making all other wills by me at any time made. 1st I direct that my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid as soon after my death as possible out of my money that I may die possessed of or may first come into the hands of my executors. Secondly, I give and bequeath to my wife, Rhoda Cowden, my home and land also my negro, named Eliza, her increase, if any, during her widowhood or until my oldest son named John arrives at the age of twenty-one years, or could have done if life lasted. Then I direct that the aforesaid property be sold to the best advantage, and the proceeds of said property be equally divided between my wife Rhoda Cowden and all my children; and I further direct that the said Rhoda Cowden shall board and school all my children and defray all necessary expenses that occur with them during her widowhood or until they arrive at the age of twenty-one years or marry. Also I bequeath to my wife Rhoda Cowden her life time my two cows, my spotted mare, household and kitchen furniture, farming utensils, fifty bushels of corn, seventy bushels of wheat, one thousand pounds of pork; and I further direct that all the balance of my property that I now possess be sold on twelve months credit to the highest bidder, and the proceeds of said property, including all the rest of my moneys, be equally divided between my wife and children when collected. Lastly, I do hereby nominate and appoint Humphrey N. Cowden and John F. McClelland my lawful executors, in witness whereof I do to this my will set my hand and seal, this the 28th day of August, 1839.

Signed, WILLIAM COWDEN.

Signed, sealed and published in our presence, and we have subscribed our names hereunto in the presence of the testator this same day and date above written.

Signed, WM. S. McCLELLAND.
MORGAN CLAYTON.

In religion William and Rhoda Cowden were what were known in their day as Seceder Presbyterians, who left the Orthodox Presbyterians under the leadership of Barton W. Stone. Stone came into Tennessee from North Carolina first in 1795, when he preached to the settlements in Davidson and Sumner counties, after which he went to Georgetown, Ky., where he settled and preached to the churches in the surrounding counties. After the death of his first wife he came back into Tennessee, in 1812, and married Celia Bowen, who lived near Goodlettsville, where he lived for several years, preaching in Middle Tennessee, then

returned to Kentucky. His associates continued to preach in Middle Tennessee, and during this time William Cowden and his wife joined this reform movement, which afterwards in 1832 united with the movement led by Thomas and Alexander Campbell, and has since been known as the Christian Church, or Disciples of Christ, and by some as Campbellites; however, I have frequently heard my Grandmother Cowden say that no one could call her a Campbellite, because she came into the church long before she heard of the Campbells. She remained a staunch member to the end. My earliest and latest recollection of her (she lived with my father after the death of her second husband) is seeing her dressed in her Sunday clothes, with her large sunbonnet, ready to start to church long before time to go. Nearly all of their descendants were and are members of this church.

After the death of William Cowden, his wife married her cousin, J. W. Brents, a brother of Dr. Thomas Brents. By this marriage she had six children, three boys, Wilson, Thomas and Otho; and three girls, Lavenia (Mrs. Gad Castleman), Mary (Mrs. John Meadows), and Leota (Mrs. Geo. Edgeman), all of whom left families; but, as they have no Cowden blood in them, we do not trace them further. For the interest of those related through Rhoda Davis Cowden we state, however, that she had one brother, Wilson Payne Davis, who married Sallie Cowden, whose descendants are given in a preceding chapter; one sister, Lucinda, who married Solomon Meadows, the children of whom were Mrs. Clemmie Loyd, Mrs. Jane Scales, Mrs. Dock Meadows and Mrs. Emma Hubberd, all of whom left families in Marshall County and elsewhere, and I think that Mrs. Narcissa Irvine Cowden, the third wife of Humphrey Cowden, who was a Davis before her marriage, was closely related to her. Rhoda Davis Cowden lived to a great old age, 88 years, and was very active then. She rode fourteen miles horseback a few days before her death, when she was taken with an acute trouble from eating something, otherwise she would have, no doubt, lived to be a hundred or more.

Dr. John Cowden, oldest son of William and Rhoda Cowden, with his descendants, will be found in the following chapter.

WILLIAM NORRIS COWDEN, 1836-1892.

William Norris Cowden, whom we all knew as Uncle Billie, was the second living son of William and Rhoda Cowden. He came up through hardships, without a father, and acquired the



Col. W. N. Cowden and grandson, Will Norris, Jr.

best education that his day afforded, being educated in the New Hope Academy, under Professor Darnell and others. He served through the Civil War as a Confederate soldier, after which he studied law, and became a leading member of the bar at Lewisburg, Tenn., where he lived and reared his family. He was the talented and brilliant member of the Cowden family. The recent reading of a school commencement address, delivered by him when he was a young attorney, made me realize the intellectual strength and quality of the man as never before. While a young lawyer he represented the county in the Legislature for a term of two years, and was Register of the county for one term, and later was Clerk of the Supreme Court in Nashville. He afterwards became a strong and forceful lawyer, and achieved a notable success in the courts of Middle Tennessee. He had remarkable success in suits of defense. It became a proverb among the people, often saying, "If Bill Cowden and Sal Bowers (a shrewd witness) can't get you out, you are doomed for life."

His chief strength as a lawyer and as a man was his charming personality. Also, he dressed well and was of distinguished appearance, portly, and of the Southern colonel type; and his affable, friendly, cordial manner gave him entre into the affections of all. In fact, I have never known a man of more personal charm. Young and old alike were drawn to him. He loved children, and honored them with his attention and affection. One of the greatest moments of my life was when he took me, a small boy, with him into the courthouse, and I sat with him during the hearing of a suit. He had but one enemy—the habit of drink—which he acquired through the social life of that day and never was able to conquer, though he tried manfully, and fought many battles against it. He was a victim of the social evil of that day. He was a prince of hospitality in his home, and his greatest joy was to entertain his friends there.

Early in life he married Elizabeth Yowell, who, though small in stature was large in heart and deed, and was an anchor for him in all times of storm, and a joy throughout his life. I never knew a woman of greater courage and a sweeter disposition.

They had six children: four boys, John, William W., Erskine and Joseph; and two girls, Martha and Effie.

John Cowden married Ammie Johnson, of Nashville, and after a short marriage he died of appendicitis, leaving one child, Elnora. She married Otto Hyland, who lived but a short time; she is now living with her mother at Brentwood, near Nashville.

Will Cowden has been a traveling salesman all his adult life. He married Jenny Cooney, of Nashville, who died after a brief wedlock, leaving one son, Will Norris Cowden, who married Jennie May Fry, and is a cotton grader in Alabama. He has one daughter, Francis. Will Cowden afterwards married Margaret Jones, of Union City, Tenn., to whom one son, Thomas Cowden, was born, who married Miss Watt; they reside in Union City.

Erschine Cowden married Lula McLauren. They live in Fayetteville, Tenn., and have no children.

Joe Cowden has been a traveling salesman most all his life, and married Leo Pettit. He has lived in many places in the South, but now owns and makes his home at his father's homestead.

Effie married a Mr. Pillow first, by whom she had one child, Bessie Pillow, who married, first, Robert T. Keller and had one child, Robert; and then married Dick Bailey, by whom she has the following children, Elizabeth, Martha, Jane and Evylin. After Mr. Pillow's death, Effie married Mr. Wilks, of Cornersville, by whom she has two boys, Woodson and Cowden.

Martha (or Mattie) Cowden married Grundy Hendricks (dec'd), druggist, and afterward an insurance man; they had their home in Lewisburg, Tenn., and had six children, namely: Elizabeth, Will, Effie May, Jenny, Amie and Robert. Elizabeth (dec'd) married Frank Roberts and left two daughters, Martha, who married Moss Green, and Beth, who married James Mores. Will married Pearl Pyland and has one son, Jack. Effie married Joe Moss and has two sons, Joe and Robert. Jennie married Guy McGlaughlin and has two children, Jane and Guy. Ammie died unmarried. Robert married Elsie Lee Zeigler and has two children, Isabel and Robert, and lives at Greenville, Ala.

MARTHA COWDEN SMITH, 1838-1910

Martha Cowden, the only daughter of William Cowden, whom we all knew as Aunt Mat, married David Smith, and they made their home near Boonshill, Lincoln County, Tenn., rearing a family of seven children, four boys and three girls, namely: Emma, Willie, Payne, Lizzie, John C., Arthur and Cannie. They brought up their family following the Civil War, with hardships and struggles; but it never broke her spirit nor soured her disposition. She was a Cowden to the end, cheerful and devoted to everyone of the name.

Emma Smith married Luther Partin (dec'd), and lives in Decatur, Ala. Her children are as follows: Fred Partin, Frankewing, Tenn., R. 2., two children, Chester and Sarah; Rhoda Partin McLin, Decatur, Ala., one child, Joe T. Sullivan; Ethel Partin Trantham, Frankewing, Tenn., one child, Dorris; L. C. Partin, 2723 Park Ave., Detroit Mich., two children, Luther and Fay; Bruce Partin, 1641 Pallester, Apt. 8, Detroit, Mich.

Payne Smith lives at Harms, Tenn., whose children are as follows: John Lee Smith, Boonshill, Tenn., three children, Inez, Addie Wood and Martha; William Clarence Smith, 3705 Westbrook Avenue, Nashville, Tenn., one child, Billy; Evelyn Smith Holland, Decherd, Tenn., R. 2., two children, Maxine and

Marvin; Naomi Smith Conner, Winchester, Tenn., R. 2, three children, Thelma, Evelyn and Reyford; Ruth Smith Brady, Frankewing, Tenn., two children, Glenn and Alice; Henry Smith, 38 Cook Street, Akron, Ohio, one child, David; Kenneth Smith, Harms, Tenn.; Marion C. Smith, H. Q. Battery, 17th F. A., Des Moines, Ia.; Elmo Smith, Carl Smith and Frank Smith, Harms, Tenn.

The children of Willie Smith (dec'd) are Norris F. Smith, Cleburne, Texas, and Nina Smith Swiggart, 2921 Lascar Avenue, Waco, Texas, two children, Billy and Cathrene.

John C. Smith lives at Aquilla, Texas, R. 2, whose children are as follows: John Roy Smith, 1228 Woodland Avenue, Birmingham, Ala., one child, Betty Jean; Will Knox Smith, Aquilla, Texas, R. 2; Lena Smith Parks, Aquilla, Texas, R. 2, one child, Ray Ann; Joe Brown Smith, Jewell Josephine Smith, Annie Laurie Smith, Wanda Elizabeth Smith, Aquilla, Texas, R. 2; and Charlie Cowden Smith, 913 North Thirtieth Street, Waco, Texas, two children, Charlsie and Earl Wayne.

Lizzie Smith died unmarried.

Arthur Smith lives in Albany, Ala., whose children are as follows: Ethel Lee Smith Collins, 206 Elwood Avenue, Gadsden, Ala.; William Bryan Smith, John Cowden Smith, Clara Mae Smith, Cannie Forrest Smith, 1329 Fifth Avenue, South, Decatur, Ala.

Cannie Smith married Knox Ramsey, Frankewing, Tenn., whose children are as follows: Louis Smith Ramsey, 410 North Maney's Avenue, Murfreesboro, Tenn., one child, Peggy Ann; John David Ramsey, 109 Park Drive, Sheffield, Ala.; and Joe Lawrence Ramsey, Frankewing, Tenn.

CHAPTER VIII

DR. JOHN COWDEN (1834-1912), AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Dr. John Cowden, whose picture appears in the front of this book, was the oldest living child of William and Rhoda Cowden. Left without a father at the age of four, he had to make his own way in the world from the beginning. He decided on medicine as a profession, and began his studies under Dr. T. W. Brents at the age of seventeen, after which he attended the medical school at Macon, Ga., and post-graduate lectures at Memphis, Tenn. He practiced his profession in the southeastern part of Marshall County for fifty-eight years, covering a large area in that section. He was a family physician of the old school type, who have about become extinct. Since he was my father, I give character sketches of him written by others, the first from the Tennessee Medical Journal, and the second by Professor Hiram Leonard, friend and neighbor.

The Tennessee Medical Journal, October issue, 1912:

"Dr. John Cowden, aged 78, died at his residence in Petersburg, Tenn., September 20, 1912.

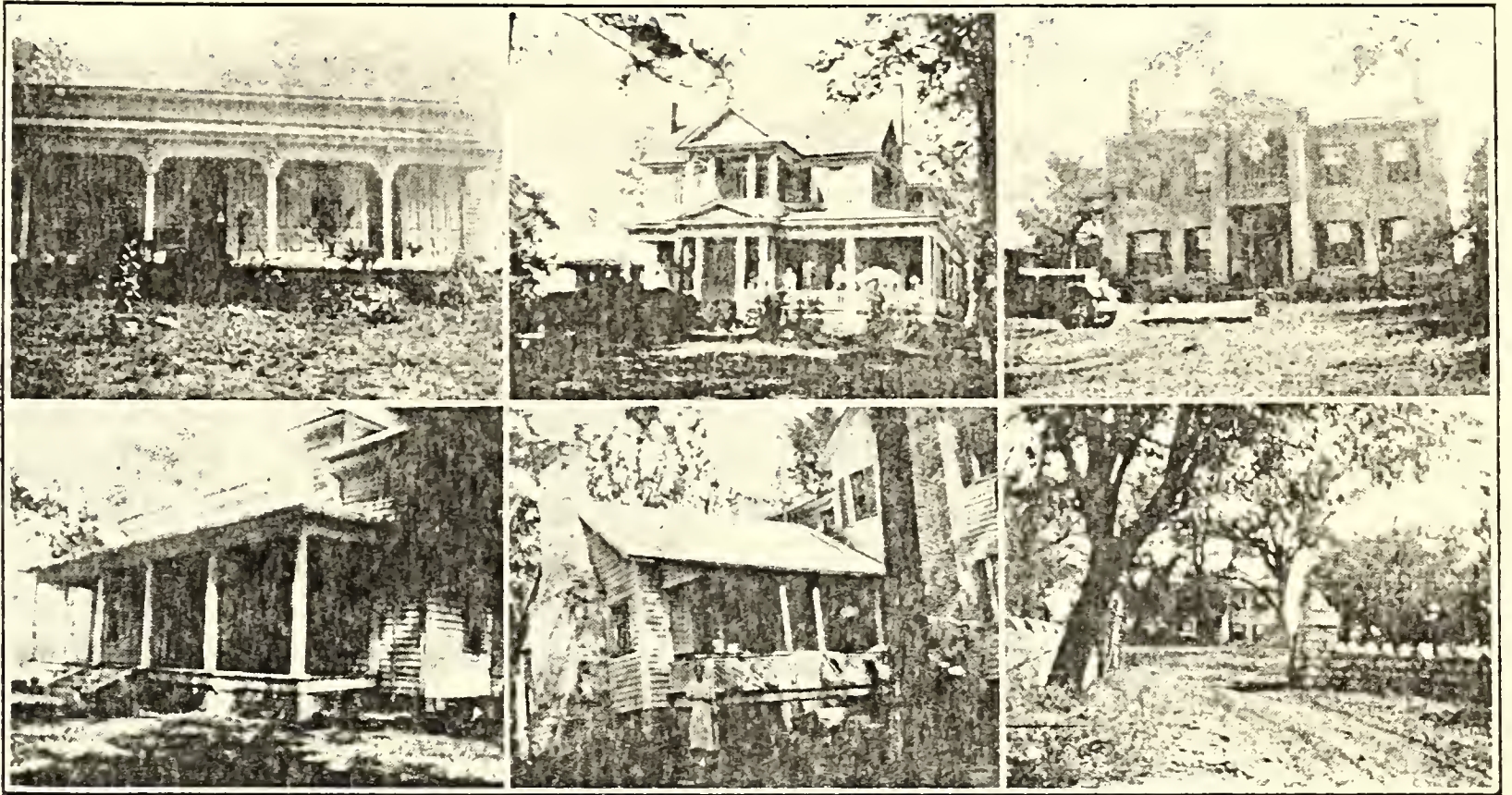
This simple announcement informs his many friends and acquaintances that the earthly mission has closed of one that was justly held in high esteem by a great many people.

He was graduated from the Reformed Medical College, of Macon, Ga., in 1856, and at once commenced the practice of medicine in the community in which he was born and reared, and continued in the practice until the time of his death, almost three score years.

When he began to practice, very little was known about the cause of disease, compared with what the bacteriologist and chemist have revealed to the profession of this day. But Dr. Cowden developed into a clinician by close study of pathological symptoms that caused him to stand high as a physician with the profession and the laity. He was a close observer of the therapeutic action of drugs, and his wide experience made him familiar with their use and indications in the treatment of disease.

He was not only a very fine physician that attained eminence in his profession but a high-class citizen in the community in which he lived, becoming the counsellor and confidential advisor of his neighbors.

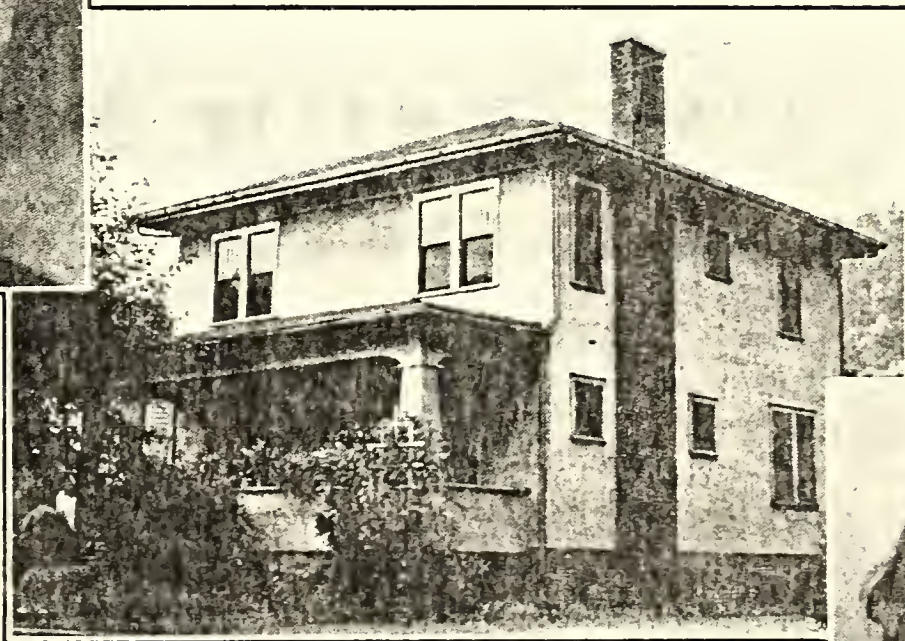
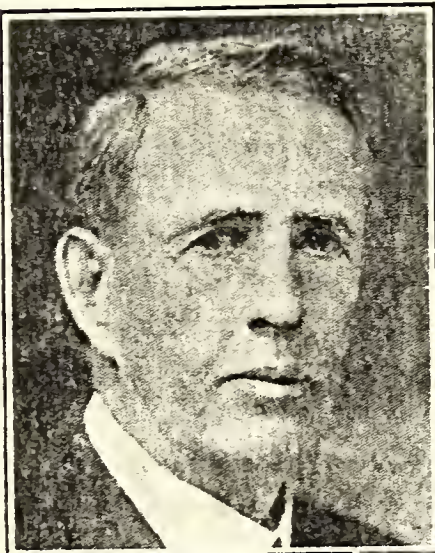
SOME COWDEN HOMES



*Above, Wm. Cowden's,
Ostello, Tenn.
Below, Dr. John Cowden's,
Petersburg, Tenn.*

*Front and side of
John Cowden's
Turnersburg, N. C.*

*Front and entrance
to John B. Cowden's,
West Nashville, Tenn.*



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Cowden and home, Harlan, Ky.

He was, indeed, the family physician with all that implies, wherever he went, a relation existing between physician and family that to a large extent has been obliterated in this day and time by the easy access to medical centers and hospital advantages of the present.

His optimistic view of all conditions, his earnest solicitude for the welfare of his patient, his sympathy for all who were in distress, and his benevolence and charity towards all has made an everlasting impression on all that knew him.

His kind are fast passing off the stage of action, but the memory of them will linger and abide with us forever."

The following tribute, though somewhat fulsome and idealized after death, as is usual, was written by Professor Hiram Leonard, one of his neighbors and the teacher of the community school for several generations,—a talented and brilliant teacher of the old school, who did more than anyone that ever lived in that section to inspire and instruct the youth for great and useful lives. I quote the following:

"On returning from the medical school Dr. Cowden's practice soon became large and extensive. He was a young man of prepossessing appearance, of frank and open look, of soft expression in speech, of courteous manner, of intelligent vision, of brisk movement, of modest yet dignified assertiveness, of attractive sympathy, of confident though unassuming superiority, and, last, but not least, of a magnetic personality that could not be resisted. Such a man as this with ever broadening sympathy for suffering, intelligently alert for every opening of usefulness in his profession, ambitious for success, was bound to widen his practice.

"Shortly after entering upon his chosen profession he married the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Dr. Griffith Leonard, Mary Hannah; they began housekeeping on the old Fishing Ford Road near old New Hope Academy, but soon removed to the land given to her by her father, adding as much more by purchase, making 200 acres in all. Here they built their beautiful home and reared their children, to which friends, visitors and patients came with gladness, spent their time while there with quiet joy, and left it longing to come again to its sweet retirement and rest.

"His extensive practice and far-separated patients in sickly seasons demanded all his time and more. The only way of travel in those days was upon a horse. The writer has heard him say more than once, 'There were times when the only sleep that I got was upon my horse while going from one home to another.' With intelligence and a heart surcharged with love and human kindness, he entered into the homes of the people as a human factor, stern if necessary, but more often tender as a mother and sympathetic as a father, and always kind and loving as a friend. Dr. Cowden was not afraid to shed a tear nor ashamed to cry like a woman, as he frequently did, when he reached the end of his means to cure the stricken one. Dr. Cowden's success as a physician depended as much upon the sympathy and love he carried into the sick room as upon the confidence and skill he displayed in the treatment of the disease.

"His theory upon which he founded his practice of medicine was that the physician cures few cases of disease; his chief mission is to relieve till nature

can assert itself. Nature, he claimed, furnished the materials of life, adjusted these materials, assimilated them, built up the tissues, and, in most cases, if let alone, would restore lost balances, adjust grievances, remove impediments, and give tone to run-down conditions. But he claimed that people, ignorant of her laws, would often throw into her path things that could not be surmounted without help. In such case the physician was indispensable. At other times a physician's advice was worth more than his medicine. (This is the theory of modern preventive medicine long before its day.)

"Dr. Cowden was no speaker, not even a good conversationalist. He was pleasing in conversation, because of his simplicity, candor and frankness, but, especially, because he was a courteous and good listener. These qualities helped him greatly in the sickroom. His unconscious dignity made him respected—the qualities just mentioned made him admired and loved.

"While Dr. Cowden was an efficient and successful physician, his work as a physician would not have been so great had he not possessed the qualities of true and noble manhood. Outside of his professional duties he was a leader in educational and religious work. He wanted his children and his neighbor's children to be educated. He invested his money, and persuaded his neighbors to invest their money in school property and teachers. He employed the best teachers that money would command; and they maintained one of the best country schools in Middle Tennessee. His children and theirs are all over the South and West, filling positions of trust and usefulness. But for Dr. Cowden this would never have been done.

"Dr. Cowden was a clean man in word and deed. He was never heard to speak an unclean or profane word. The clean moral life that Dr. Cowden lived in the community worked like a leaven until the whole lump of society was largely clean and pure. He was also a charitable man. Want and distress never called in vain at his door. On one occasion, returning from a call late at night, he came upon a man in the act of stealing corn. He helped him shoulder the corn, and said to him, 'Now, if you need any more corn, come back in the daytime and get it; you are welcome to all you need;' and he never let it be known who the man was. His home and table were open and free to all classes and conditions, and no man ever entertained more strangers, and cared for more cases of need. In his practice he was as attentive to the poor as the rich, if not more so, often taking them into his home for food and treatment. Such cases were numerous and continuous throughout his life. In one instance an old lady, Aunt Abbey, continued to live in the home until her death—twenty-six years; and the writer never knew until after her death, though intimately acquainted with the family, that she was a stranger. We always thought that she was an old and precious aunt that Dr. Cowden took into his home to care for while she lived.

"Dr. Cowden was successful as a business man, as a physician, and as a farmer and stockman. He made money, and much of it; but kept back little. His generosity and charity kept him financially low. The fact that he was not a rich man when he died tells no tale of business failure. He made more money from personal effort than any other man that has lived in his community.

"Dr. Cowden was an ideal man in his home. The greatest test of manhood is in the home life. In the home he was like a great warm light, making everything open as the day, shedding a heat that gave comfort and pleasure. Wife, children, neighbors, friends, visitors and strangers—all felt the genial influence

of his home. This influence was not a transient one, but went with him through life. He especially wanted his children to always be happy and useful. To this end he supplied them with the best literature, and sent them to the best schools, they responding to these provisions for their happiness and usefulness gratefully and nobly. Not a child has ever brought a stain to the family. All have stood high in social and professional life, loved and respected, giving out the same generous hospitality and friendship that characterized the home and life of their royal father.

"Dr. Cowden as a Christian was a pillar in the house of God for something like a half century, shedding light and warmth upon the members of the church and being a strong supporter of all religious interests. He gave liberally of his means, and was always faithful in his attendance upon all services of the church, in which he was an elder for most of his life."

I have no one from whom I may quote a sketch of my mother, Mary Leonard Cowden, whose picture is herein given, so I will have to write of her myself. She was the oldest child of Dr. Griffith and Nancy Porter Leonard, who were among the pioneer settlers of Marshall County from Virginia, in 1806, and belonged to the Southern aristocrats of their day. Their old home, built over a hundred years ago, is four miles north of Petersburg, now owned and occupied by the youngest son, W. S. Leonard. My mother married young and became the mother of twelve children, ten of whom lived to be grown, with families, who will hereafter be included. Much of the atmosphere and ideals of the home, eulogized above, was due to her, who was the real maker of the home. While she never had the advantages of the best schools, she was nevertheless an educated woman, a self-educated woman from broad experience and wide reading. My father was not a brilliant man, but she was a woman of strong native mentality, quiet and retiring, but mentally alert. She read extensively and remembered what she read, keeping well informed and conversant with the affairs of the world, past and present; and, like her brother, Dr. Thomas Leonard, she was one of the most entertaining conversationalists that I have known. They were not only good conversationalists but also good listeners, and highly congenial. They had much in common; in fact, so much that you can hardly speak of the one without the other. He would often come to see my mother, saying that he could stay for only an hour or so, and get to talking and stay all day, and frequently all night. That was when people took time to visit and talk things over, even to spend the night, and he always had plenty of interesting things to relate,—more than he could tell. He was a great student of nature and people,—the best informed person on wild life that

I have known; and he knew more about people than they knew about themselves. He was not a student of books but of life. His character delineations of the commonplace people among whom he lived and practiced were equal to any that David Grayson has written. He had ever-watchful eyes for the interesting in bird, bush and bee, and also in people, and a fluent tongue to portray what he saw, so it was a joy for him to come. My mother knew how to lead him out and draw on his interesting knowledge and experience, as she did with all visitors in the home. She appealed to the best that was in everyone. No home had a more tactful and sympathetic hostess. She presided over the social life in the home with peculiar grace and understanding, and at the same time kept close oversight of all things temporal and material. Like all true mothers her home was her world, and she gave her life to her home and those in need. She was good to everybody, "even Dildine," as one of the neighbors used to say. Dildine was the county tramp and vagabond. Furthermore, she used to send me with a plate of food for another vagabond that slept in the strawstack on the farm. She, likewise, was not forgetful to entertain strangers and friends; but as her work was confined to the home, she was not as well and publicly known as my father; however, to those that knew her, she was a remarkable and lovable woman. Born January 23, 1837; died November 29, 1907. She was buried in the Leonard graveyard.

After her death my father married Lula Leonard, who kept a home for him and the family, as they returned on visits, and was very faithful and devoted to him in his last years until his death in October, 1912, lacking only a few days of being seventy-nine years. He was strong in body and active in the practice of medicine up to the time of his death, caused by an injury from a runaway horse, which he was driving; otherwise, he would have doubtless lived many years more. He was strong and active, erect, except a slight stoop in the shoulders, six feet two inches in height, and weighed 250 pounds—a powerful man, who without shrinking had weathered the storms of a long life, without complaining had borne his own and others' burdens, without shirking, had done his duty to God and man, and without fear came to the end in peace as "one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams." May his life forever be an inspiration to his descendants. He was buried in the Leonard graveyard. His children and descendants are as follows:



Center, Mrs. Mary Leonard Cowden, mother of 12 Cowdens. Right, Mrs. Viola Cowden Marsh, the oldest. Left, Mrs. Sarah Cowden Sowell, the youngest. Below, the living children.



1. Viola Cowden was the oldest of the children of Dr. John and Mary Leonard Cowden, whose lives are sketched above. She married John D. Marsh (dec'd), a business man of Petersburg, Tenn., where they had their home and reared their family of seven children, three boys and four girls, namely: Earle, May Belle, Charles Patrick, George Everet, Docia, Minnie Lee, and Ida.

Earle married first, Fannie Lynne Holman, of Fayetteville, who left two sons, Holman Marsh, a young attorney of Knoxville, Tenn., and John D. Marsh, who is a student of dramatic and literary art, which he has chosen as his field. He married, second, Mabel Ligget, who has three children, Earle, Jr., Sam and Charles. They live near Huntsville, Ala.

May Belle Marsh is unmarried, and is a business woman in Fayetteville, Tenn.

Charlie Pat Marsh is a successful physician of Petersburg, Tenn., and is married to Lillian Sorells of the same place. They have no children.

George Everet Marsh is a contractor, married Dora Sandlin, of Marshall County, and lives in Nashville, Tenn. They have one daughter, Christine, who married Burton Robinette, and has two young sons, Everett and Charles.

Docia Marsh married Everett Beasley, a successful wholesale dry-goods merchant of Petersburg, Tenn., and has two sons, Lynne, who is a student in college, and Philip, who is in high school.

Minnie Lee Marsh married Clifford Archer, a successful business man of Petersburg, and has two children, June and John (dec'd).

Ida Marsh married Roy Holland and has one son, Al.

Viola Cowden Marsh, the mother of the above family, has served well her day and generation, and is still doing so, carrying on the affairs of her home and taking part in the affairs of the community. She is a woman of strong faith and unceasing works.

2. Josie Cowden married Dan Bills, and they began their home on the farm, but afterwards entered the hotel business in Petersburg and Fayetteville, Tenn., where they lived and reared their family, consisting of seven girls and one boy, losing one boy in infancy. Since the death of the father the family has lived in Sarasota, Fla.

Effie never married, and is a clerk in a department store at Sarasota, Fla.

Minnie married Otis Neill, of Oklahoma, and died a few years after marriage, leaving one child, Josephine, who is now a young lady and in business in Oklahoma City.

Lizzie married Earle Carlisle, first, and had one son, William, who is married, and has two young girls, and lives and is employed in Dallas, Texas. She next married Mr. Piper, a traveling salesman, and has one son, Bobbie.

Clara married Terry Landis, of Petersburg, Tenn., a traveling salesman, they have one son, Joe, who is a dentist of Sarasota, Fla. He is married, and has one child.

Mattie married Joe Gill, of Petersburg, Tenn., and later moved to Sarasota, Fla., where he is president of one of the banks and one of the leading business men of the town. They have three children, namely: Mildred, Olive and Joe Dozier. Mildred married Lynn Silvertooth and has one child, Lynn, Jr. Oliver married a Miss Edwards and has two children. Joe Dozier is a young lawyer, and is unmarried. The children of the above are the ninth generation from Mathew Cowden.

Gracie is unmarried, and is a business woman in Sarasota, Fla.

Nannie Lee married John McPhail (dec'd), has two children, John Sumner and Mary, and is in business in Sarasota.

Will Sheffer married Virginia Louise Carr, and has one child, Pamela Diane.

Josie Cowden Bills, the mother of the above family, after a life of hard work and usefulness, has settled down to a quiet and peaceful old age in Sarasota.

3. William Cowden died in childhood.

4. Myrtle Cowden married Professor Z. D. Jones, who for many years taught in the schools of Middle Tennessee, and then moved to Texas, where he taught until his death. He left his impress and monument in the living manhood and womanhood of Tennessee and Texas today. They had four children, Isaac Grady, Mary, Charles Cowden (died in infancy), and John Roy.

Grady is a physician and surgeon of Du Queene, Ark., married Lottie Neal of Texas, and they have two sons, I. G. and Charles Neal.

Mary is a teacher in the Dallas, Texas, schools. She married Mr. Rheubotham, and has two children, Martha and Lottie Jean.

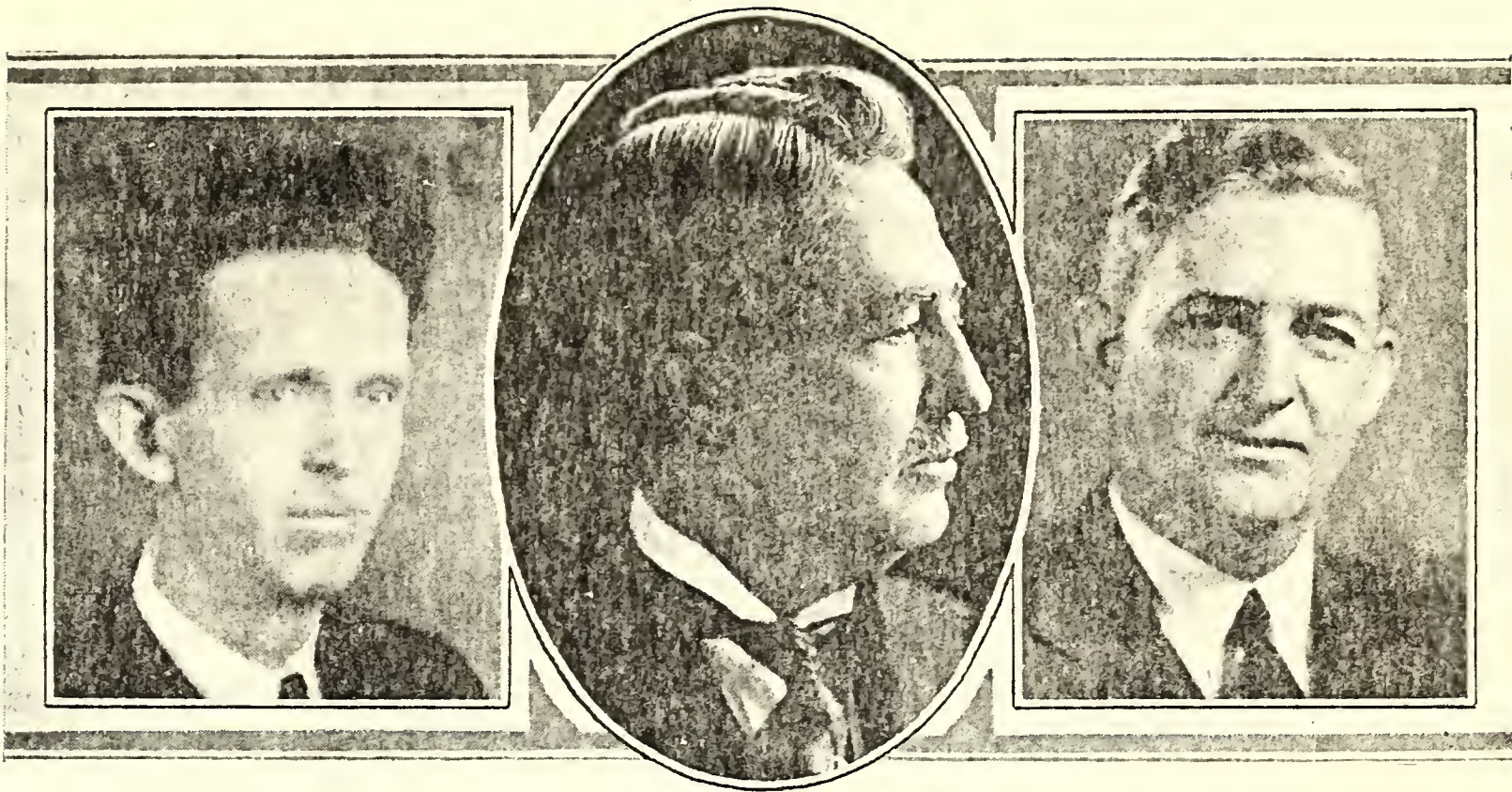
John Roy is a prominent business man in Dallas, Texas, dealing in graduating supplies for schools and colleges.

Myrtle Cowden Jones, the mother of this family, keeps house for her son, John Roy, who is unmarried, and is resting from her labors well done and a life spent in the service of others.

5. Charles Norris Cowden followed his father into the profession of medicine. After his academic education in the county school of the community and Terrill and Clark College, Winchester, Tenn., 1883-1884, he entered the medical department of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., from which he graduated in 1886. He practiced with his father for two years, during which time (August 7, 1886), he married Ada May Dozier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Dozier of the same community, and moved to Petersburg, where he practiced medicine and operated a drug store (McCrady & Cowden), 1888-1900. After taking post-graduate work in clinics and hospitals of New York City, he moved to Fayetteville, Tenn., where he began the practice of surgery with medicine, and had an extensive practice from 1900 to 1906.



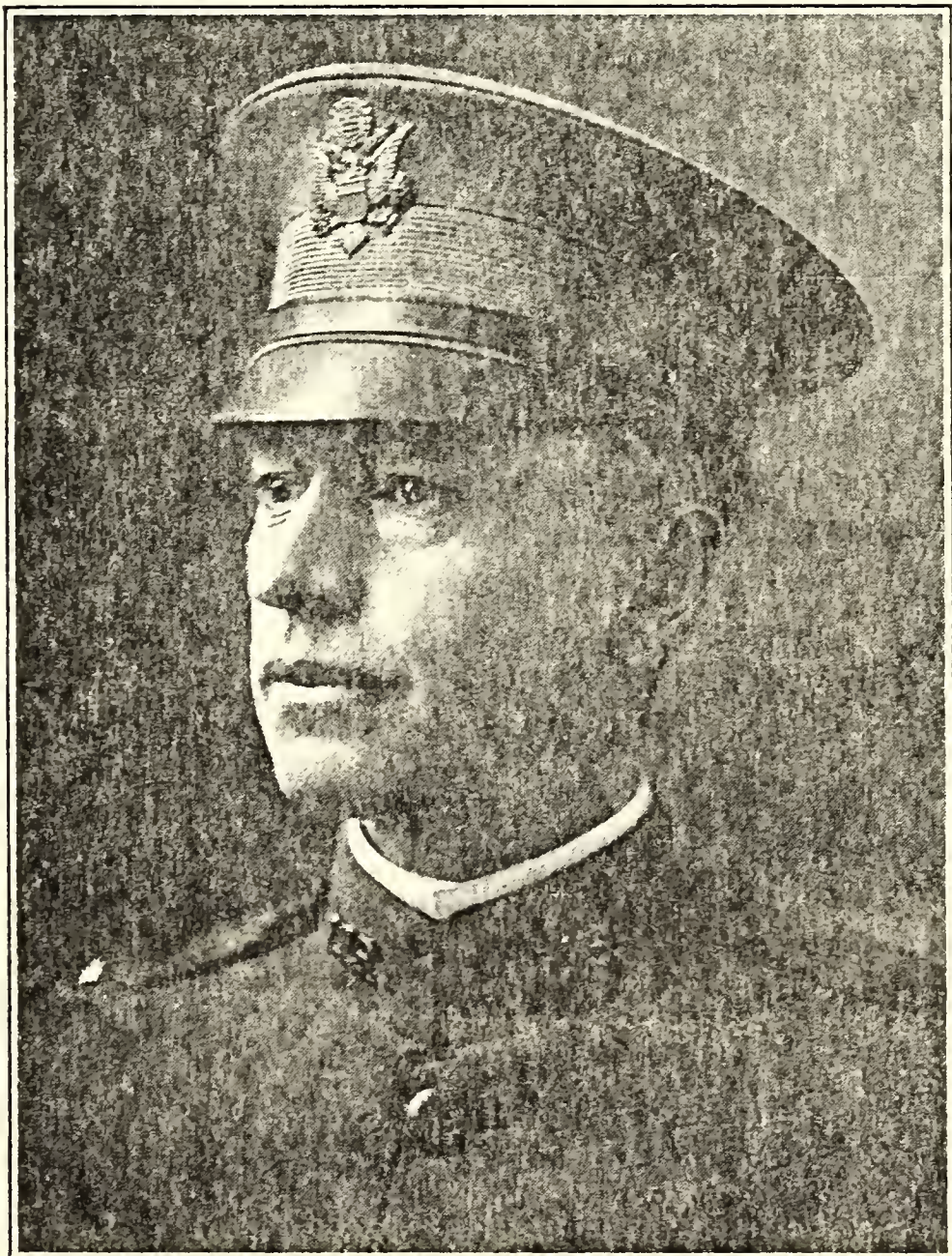
Dr. C. N. Cowden, Nashville, Tenn.



Son
Will E. Cowden

Father
Dr. C. N. Cowden

Son
John B. Cowden



Dr. C. P. Marsh, Petersburg, Tenn.

An opening in the field of surgery came to him from the Woman's Hospital, Nashville, Tenn., which he accepted. He moved to Nashville, where he was associated with Dr. M. C. McGannon in the Woman's Hospital. Leaving here after a few years, he joined the staff at St. Thomas, where he has had a large clinic in surgery, and also at the City General Hospital, where he was the chief of staff of gynecology, and was the leading factor in securing the recent new unit. In connection with his office and hospital work in Nashville, he held the chairs of Orthopedic Surgery, Proctology and Gynecology in the University of Nashville until it merged with Vanderbilt University. During the World War he was Medical Referee for Middle Tennessee. He has been president of all the state and county medical organizations, and is a member of the American Medical Association and also of the American College of Surgeons. He is very popular with the profession and his patients.

Aside from his profession he is a very lovable and wholesome man in all the relationships of life. In the family he is the favorite of all the Cowdens; and with his friends he is "chief among ten thousand." Notwithstanding his lucrative practice, which ran yearly into the thousands, he has kept himself poor by his extravagant indulgence of his family and his lavish entertainment of his friends. In these days of seclusion and individualism in the home, he remains a shining example of old-time Southern hospitality and extravagance. I have heard my father say of him, "I think Charlie studies up ways to spend money." In the rearing and disciplining of his children I have heard him say, humorously, "It is my policy to find out what they want to do, and help them do it," which was more true than humorous; however, this policy has proven successful in his case, as they are now all grown, and are worthy and successful men and women. Though always jovial and optimistic, he has had his share of human sorrows; first, the loss by death of his oldest child, Mary, in 1913, and his wife in 1918. He has recently retired from the practice of his profession on account of a breakdown in health, due to heart trouble, and is living at his home on the Hydes Ferry Road in a suburb of Nashville, Tenn. His last public act and appearance was the delivery of an address at the dedication of the new Fisk University library, to which he gave his medical library. Though passing slowly through the valley and shadow of death, he remains cheerful and resigned. I give below tributes to him from friends, one from E. P. Corbin, an associate fellow elder in

the Church; another from Roger T. Nooe, his pastor, and the other from Dr. W. D. Haggard, a contemporary surgeon and physician of Nashville, a former president of the American Medical Association, and present president of the American College of Surgeons.

"I have known many fine men in my life, and have been enriched in soul by contact with them; but I have never known a finer man than Dr. Charles Norris Cowden. He is my ideal of an all-round man in every sense. As a physician and surgeon he ranks among the best, and richly deserves the honors that have been bestowed upon him by the medical profession. But one has to see him in his home life to appreciate the man fully. As husband and father he is everything that such relationship ought to be. As a friend and gentleman he is as true as proven steel and as fearless and pure as truth. It has been my privilege to know Dr. Cowden in an intimate way for many years, and he has been a blessing and inspiration to me. Often as a guest in his home I have wondered if Heaven might not be like it. I could say more, but I do not want to be fulsome. What I say everyone knows to be true, and it comes out of the sacred precinct of my heart."—*E. P. Corbin.*

"Dr. C. N. Cowden has truly been Middle Tennessee's beloved physician. He has reached heights in his profession, but higher heights in not being professional. With all of his skill he has kept the human touch. His science has been dedicated to humanity. He has loved greatly, and served magnanimously. Great soul he is. Nothing little about him; nothing mean; everything big and fine about the good doctor. A handsome body, the temple of a noble soul. The glory of the lighted mind his right royal possession, and the greater glory of a Christ-like spirit. Dr. Cowden has been too generous to be rich; but his good name—what measureless wealth it contains! Here is one of the secrets of his great life. Let these words from his own lips be forever treasured. When I spoke to him once about how he is honored and loved by the people of the Vine Street Christian Church, he answered: 'I prize my standing in that institution above everything else.' Many honors he has received, and justly, but none that has warmed his heart more than the privilege and honor of being a humble servant of his Master."—*Roger T. Nooe.*

"Dr. Charles N. Cowden is one of the outstanding surgeons of Tennessee. His work has been of a high order and extensive nature. He has given a great deal of his time to extending his surgical skill to the indigent at the Nashville General Hospital over a period of many years. He was instrumental more than anyone in bringing to the attention of the people of Nashville the need of a new hospital. He spoke in season and out of season at all the civic clubs and churches and through newspaper articles. By constant effort he had an ordinance for a bond issue passed, which, after being favorably presented to the people by him and others, carried by a large majority. The new, modern, beautiful General Hospital, which is doing so great a work for the poor of Nashville, is a monument to the humanitarianism, vision, and enthusiasm of Dr. Cowden. It is rare to find in one man so much charm of personality, so much knowledge and ability, and so much of the Christian virtues, which we have associated with the great men of all times. Countless scores of grateful patients acclaim

his name wherever surgery is mentioned. His professional brethren have always held him in the highest esteem, and admired greatly his integrity and fraternity, which made all the world his kin, and bound his friends to him by hooks of steel. When the future history of medicine in the South is written, the name of Dr. Cowden will stand out on its pages as an exemplification of the highest ideals of medicine and surgery, and the achievements, which are a great gratification and pride to all the citizens of his native state."—*Dr. W. D. Haggard.*

Mary Cowden, oldest child of Dr. C. N. Cowden and Ada Dozier Cowden, a young lady of personal charm and beauty, married Warren W. Gill, of Petersburg, Tenn., but died within a year after marriage.

William E. Cowden, second child, is unmarried, and lives with his father. He is engaged in farming.

John B. Cowden married Star Warren, of Springhill, Tenn; they have two children, Ada May and John B., Jr. So, according to the request of the old bachelor, Brandon W. Cowden, his name is being perpetuated. This John B. Cowden is an extensive oil owner and operator (Clark & Cowden), in Oklahoma and Texas. His home is in Duncan, Okla.

Ruth Cowden married Robert Burch, lawyer of Chicago, where they live. They have two children, Charles Cowden and Rachel.

Mildred Cowden married Einer Nielsen, bond salesman of Chicago. They live in Nashville, Tenn.

6. Eugene E. Cowden is a railroad man, having been in the service of the L. & N. Railroad for forty or more years. He has risen from the smallest agency to the office of Master-of-Trains over the Cumberland Valley Division, where he is deservedly popular with all the higher authorities and the men under him, by whom he is known as "Dad" Cowden. He has served the railroad and it alone, having never been a member of any of the unions, and is now about ready to retire to private life. He is a man of solid worth and merit, who has devoted his life strictly to his business, and achieved a notable success. As a diversion from business he has had many hobbies, such as chickens, goats, dogs, hunting, etc. He is quiet and retiring, but a man of strength and courage. The warmth and hospitality of his home is unsurpassed. He lives at Harlan, Ky. He married Grace Conrad, of Jamestown, Wis., and they have three children, Leonard, Charles and Jean.

Leonard married Ada Sorrells, of Petersburg, Tenn., and they have two sons, John and William, and live in Loyal, Ky., where he works for the railroad.

Charles is also married, to Ruby Creech, of Harlan, Ky., having one child, Barbara. They live in Harlan, Ky., where he is in the service of the railroad.

Jean is a young lady, of Harlan, Ky.

7. Ida May Cowden died a young lady in her twenties. She was a talented artist, leaving many fine paintings in the possession of the family.

8. Maud Cowden married T. S. Pierce of Petersburg, who spent his life in Middle Tennessee in the service of the Southern Bell Telephone Company. After his retirement they moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where he died. Their children are Clyde C. Pierce and Thomas Pierce.

Clyde is a stock and bond broker, and lives in Jacksonville, Fla.; he married Rob James of Gallatin, Tenn. They have two children, Elizabeth and Robert.

Thomas married Claire — and lives in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he works for the electric power company.

Maud Cowden Pierce, the mother of the above family, makes her home in St. Petersburg, where she has settled down to a quiet, peaceful old age. She is the prize housekeeper of the family and the best cook of any family.

9. Leila Cowden married Edward Neill, of Petersburg, Tenn., and died a few years after her marriage, leaving two sons, Lambert C. and Edward, who with their father moved to Oklahoma soon after their mother's death.

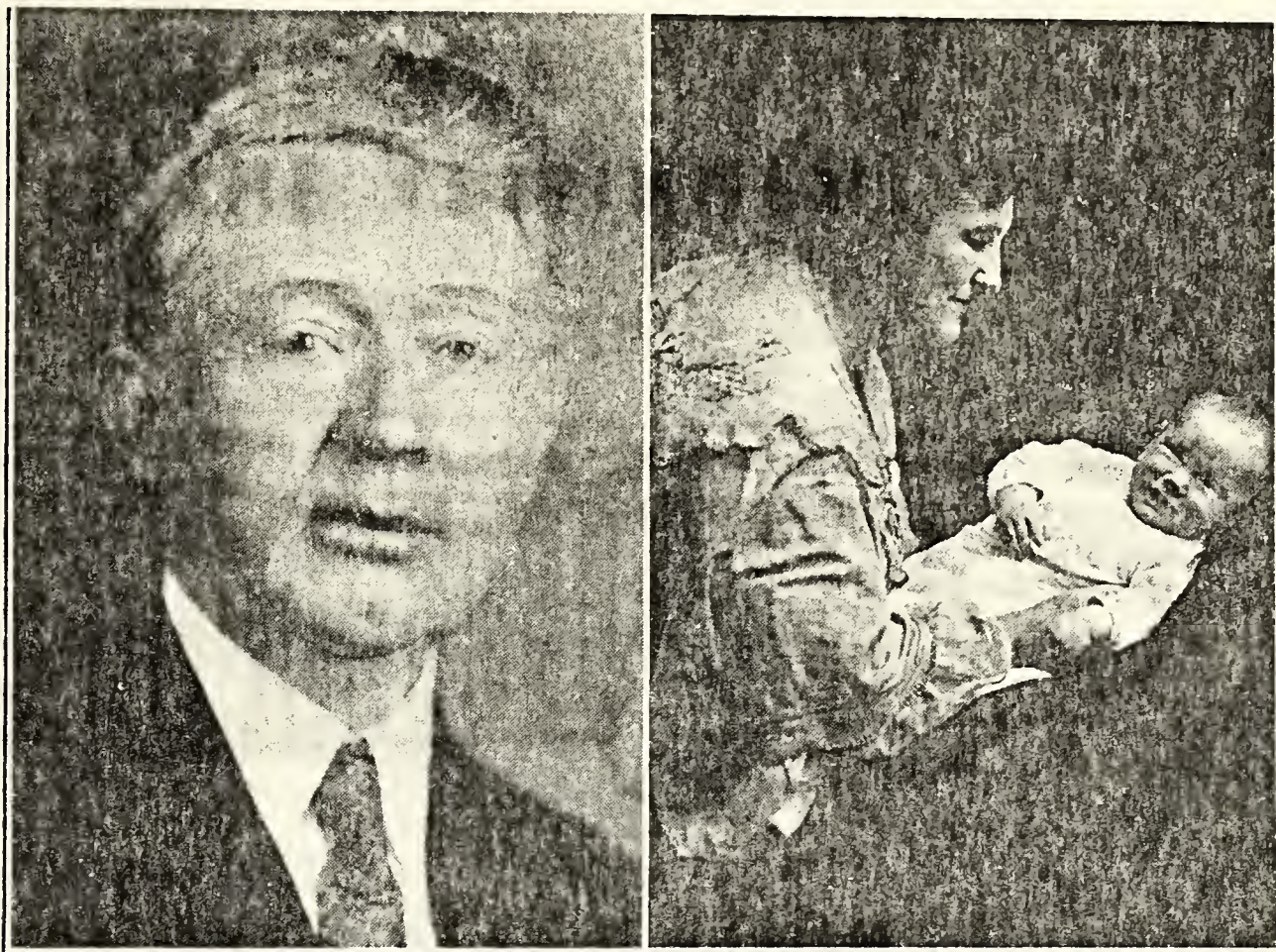
Lambert is a traveling salesman out of Dallas, Texas, where he lives, and married —.

Edward is unmarried and lives in Lindsay, Okla., where he works in a bank.

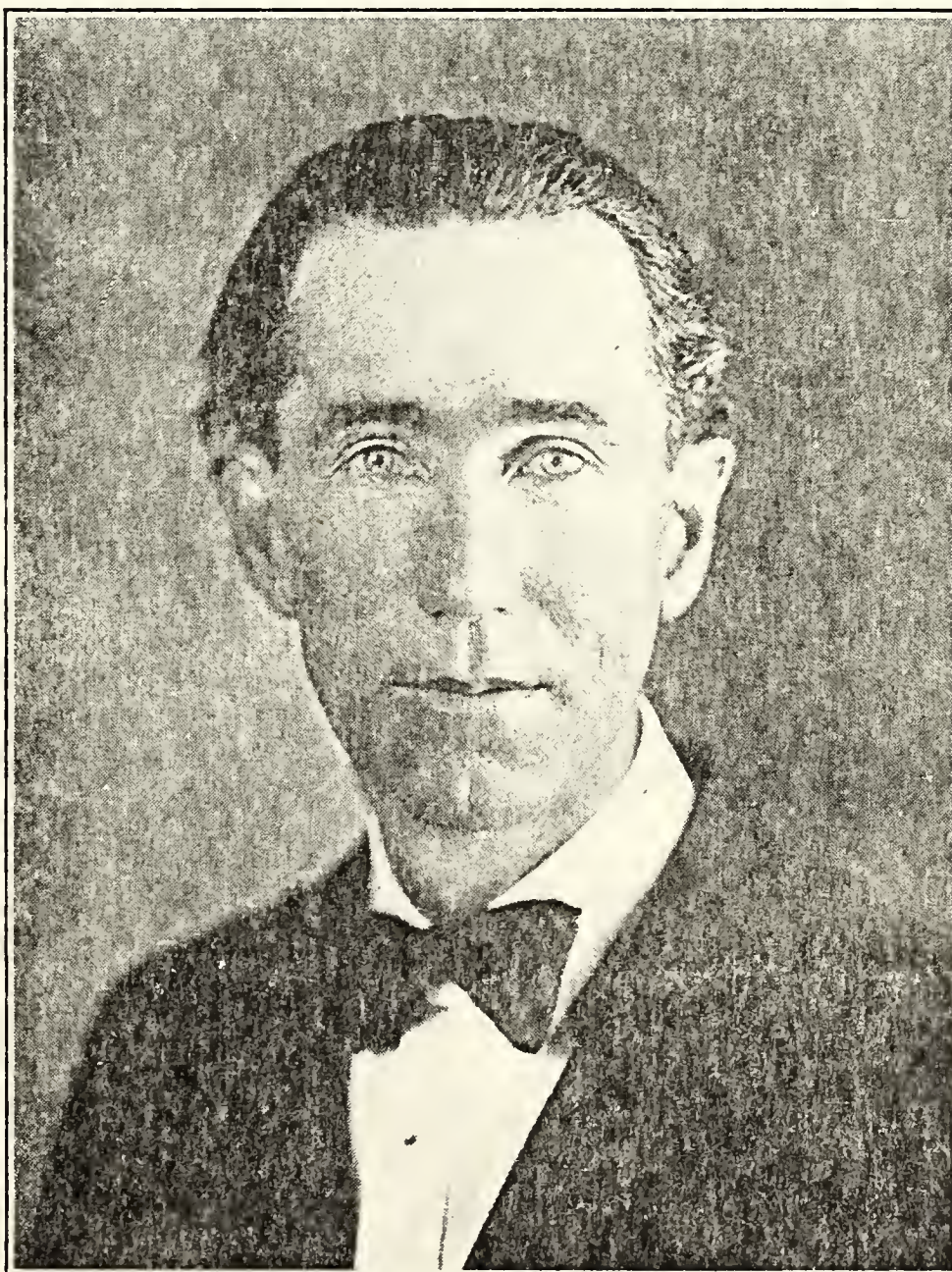
10. John Brandon Cowden, the author of this history, is next, and what shall I write about him? It is embarrassing to write about yourself, especially when there is not much to write, so I quote a brief resume from the last issue of *Who's Who in America*, as follows:

"Cowden, John Brandon, author, evangelist; born near Petersburg, Tenn., June 15, 1876; son of Dr. John and Mary Hannah Leonard Cowden; educated at Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., L.I. and A.B. 1901; post-graduate work in Bible, Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., 1904-05; taught 1901-04, Monticello, Ark., Bowling Green, Ky., Gallatin, Tenn.; ordained to ministry, Disciples of Christ, 1904; pastor, Detroit, Mich., 1904-07, McMinnville, Tenn., 1908-13, Tullahoma, Tenn., 1914-18; Christian Unity evangelist, 1918-32; delegate to World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, Switzerland, 1927; author: *Christian Worship*, 1920; *St. Paul on Christian Unity*, 1923; *Christian Unity and Open and Close Membership*, 1925; *Thinking Toward Christian Unity*, 1927; *The Firm Foundation of God*, 1929; *Worshipping Toward Christian Unity*, 1930; *Christian Union in His Name*, 1931; married Lillian Smallman, of McMinnville, Tenn., October 26, 1910; children, Charles Magness, John Smallman and Frederic Eugene. Home, West Nashville, Tenn.

In addition to the above reference to Lillian Smallman Cowden, she is the daughter of Judge M. D. and Cordelia Magness



*The author, Rev. John B. Cowden, and wife, Lilian Smallman Cowden,
and youngest son, Fred Jene*



Prof. Emmett L. Cowden, Ft. Worth, Texas

Smallman (dec'd) of McMinnville, Tenn., graduate of Ward-Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn., a faithful wife and a devoted mother, a woman of literary ability and personal charm.

11. Gracie Cowden died in childhood.

12. Sarah Elizabeth Cowden, the youngest of the family, married Charles Sowell of Petersburg, Tenn. They moved west for her health, where she died, leaving one son, Lewis, who is now grown, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, and is a teacher in the high school, Gainesboro, Tenn.,—a young man of worth and promise.

CHAPTER IX

UNRELATED INTERESTING CHARACTERS

There were a number of interesting characters, who, though of no blood relationship, were so often in the home and so closely related to the Cowden family, that I am constrained to add a chapter giving a sketch of them. The world then, as now, was full of commonplace people; but these were "characters" such as Dickens delighted to portray. I have not the ability and the literary art to make them live again on these pages, but, anyway, I shall introduce them and enshrine their names in this history, because the family and the world would be poorer for their dropping into oblivion.

DILDINE

First, Bill Dildine, the county tramp and vagabond, whom I have already mentioned. Like Melchizedek he was "without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life." There was a tradition that he came from Lawrence County, where he was supposed to have some people; but he was silent on the subject, and all anyone knew was, that he was here today and somewhere else tomorrow, and as much at home at one place and section of the county as another. He knew everybody in the county, and everybody knew him. Like Kipling's *Woman with a Serpent's Tongue*, "he was not old; he was not young;" but he had the appearance of being old, because his head was as bald and slick as a peeled onion without a suggestion or promise of hair on it; so, for this reason he never removed his hat or cap either day or night. Mischievous boys would slip up behind him and try to jerk it off, but rarely did they succeed, for he guarded it as closely as the Vestal Virgins did the sacred fire. He wore the funniest old clothes—synthetic wardrobe—collected from all over the county, and would stay anywhere he could get something to eat and a shelter and as long as he was allowed. The only way you could get rid of him was to put him to work, and, like magic, the earth would appear to open and swallow him up. He would disappear as mysteriously as he came. He was as skilful in dodging work as the wily crow is in keeping out of range of the angry farmer's gun. He was not a law-breaker—never arrested for crime—just a harmless, trifling vagabond. He was an intelligent man with considerable education and native ability, and was always a candidate for some office; and, when the county elections were held, those that had no special interest in any candidate often voted for Dildine as a joke; and one time so many voted for him that he was elected; but the votes, of course, were thrown out as illegal. He had a characteristic expression which he used in almost every conversation: "Now, that's curious to me. Ain't it curious to you? Curious to both

of us; that makes it d—— curious." He spent much time in the Cowden community; and whenever he felt the least bit sick he made for my father, who was a doctor. On one occasion he gave him a large bluemass pill, which was my father's most searching and rousing remedy for biliousness, and, if you survived the dose, you were a new person afterwards. In a few hours he came up to the front porch looking like a cholera victim, and said to my mother, "Miss Mary, do you care if I go down there and lie down under your apple tree and die?" Bill didn't die, however, but lived many years afterward. The county finally took him up and confined him in the poorhouse; but every now and then he would escape. He finally died there,—the county's tramp and vagabond,—who was a most peculiar and very amusing character, famous only for his unique triflingness and uselessness.

IRISHMEN

Next, "Irish Tom," Thom McGehagan. For some reason Irishmen were drawn to my father's home. A great deal of the time there was an Irish sojourner there from the Emerald Isle, the first of whom was "Irish Tom." He was an educated man, and had seen the world. Before coming to America he was an English soldier, belonging to the Royal Dragoons of the English Government under Queen Victoria, every man of whom had to be over six feet tall and otherwise physically perfect. For some reason he deserted in Bombay, India, and finally found his way to America, where he became a stone cutter, and eventually landed at my father's place, where he remained many years. He built rock fences all over the place, a stone smoke house, and much other stone work about the place. He was a perfect gentleman with only one fault and weakness, that of drink, which reduced him to his low estate. But he never came about the house while drinking.

Finally, on returning from the stillhouse where he had been for whiskey and being drunk, he waded the creek waist deep and went to his cabin, where he was living alone; and, going to bed with his wet clothes on, he was found frozen to death. How the mighty have fallen before the demon of drink!

Later there came Johnnie Moran, another Irishman, but of a very different type. He was a plebeian that felt his low estate, and held himself as a slave of the family. On one occasion, seeing Dildine in the parlor, where he had presumed to go for the amusement of the guests, he called him to the back porch and booted him out of the back yard, saying, "I'll teach you not to go into the parlor where there are ladies and gentlemen."

The last Irishman to sojourn with us was Uncle Johnnie, Bart Ford, who died recently. He was a very fine stone mason, who worked all over Middle Tennessee, leaving his imperishable workmanship in many of the public buildings such as the state capitol and custom house and in many private homes, in chimneys and steps. On one occasion I had him building some chimneys in cheap tenant houses, instructing him to put up cheap, rough chimneys; but, when I came back after a week or two, I found him building chimneys that would be a credit to fine residences. I rebuked him for not following my instructions, and he replied, "Me son, I'm not going to lave anything behoid me except me woik, and I'm not going to lave any such." He was the greatest slave of drink that I have known; and, if it affected everybody as it did him, all would be slaves. It raised him to the third heaven, and he danced and bounced around like a rubber ball, and floated off into fields Elysian. He would get drunk, though the heavens fell and the earth crumbled. Even then he would crawl out of the

wreck, and work a month to get whiskey to get drunk again; but withal, he was kind, honest, law-abiding and loyal to his friends.

SAL BOWERS

Next, Sal Bowers, the female desperado of the county. Nothing but a true photograph, which I suppose was never made, could make you acquainted with her. She feared neither man nor beast, but both were afraid of her. She could handle a gun or pistol with the dexterity and sure aim of a western outlaw; and she didn't hesitate to shoot whenever she thought it necessary. When her brother was put in jail at Huntsville, Ala., for counterfeiting, she saddled her horse, and, after a day and night's ride, she presented herself at the door of the jail with a pistol in each hand, demanded the keys of the jail from the sheriff, and locked him in a cell; and then, releasing her brother, they rode out of town through an awe-stricken crowd. She frequently came to my father's home for medicine and advice. One time, on leaving, after she had had her dinner and her horse fed, a negro servant brought her saddled horse around to the mounting block; and, as she mounted, she noticed that someone had cut shoe soles from the skirts of her saddle. Thinking that the negro had done it, she turned on him with threats to kill him and cursing him until the air was blue. The negro, never having heard a woman swear before and with his life threatened, first turned an ashen color, and struck speechless by mortal fear, turned and fled, while I took cover under the nearby shrubbery, leaving her in her wrath. My father came out and finally quieted her, assuring her that he would find out the guilty party and make him pay for the saddle. Wild-eyed and muttering threats, she rode away. This was the last that I saw of her; but she continued to live in the hills to the west until old age took her off.

MARY ANN HASTINGS

Next, Mary Ann Hastings, a very different type of woman. She was a poor, ignorant old lady, the mother of a large family, among whom there were triplets and a hunch-back girl. She lived nearby on a few acres of ground, on which they raised their bread and meat, but made their living mostly by weaving blankets and carpets for the public. When she came, she always spent the night; and after supper (consisting, since she was toothless, mostly of coffee and biscuits, which she could never make come out together, so called for many additional cups), she took her seat in the chimney corner with her clay pipe, which she smoked incessantly, and related the everyday happenings and experiences in her humble home, with enraptured interest to all. If I had the power of speech and personality to portray the commonplace with such a halo of interest, fortune and fame would be mine. She was also the mid-wife and practical nurse of the community, which took her into many homes, where she served and entertained. Medical science has long since done away with the mid-wife and the practical nurse; but past generations owe her a great debt; and she is deserving of a greater tribute than I am able to pay her here.

ENOCK REED

Enock Reed is next introduced. He was the clock tinkerer and fixer. He was a little more than a half-wit, but he got by with it. His usual method was to take the works out and boil them for a long time in water, and after drying and putting them back, strange to say, the clock usually ran. He was an old-time fiddler, and usually carried his fiddle in a poke with him for the amusement

and entertainment of his patrons. He couldn't play much, but he was passionately fond of his fiddle. One time, during a wind-storm, he dashed up to my father's house on his old grey mare, having just emerged from a forest of large trees near the house through which he had come in the storm, and came in breathless and scared, saying: "I was frightened almost to death! I was afraid that a tree was going to blow down upon me and break my fiddle."

GRAMMAR REED

Grammar Reed was another Reed, but no kin to Enock nor anyone else except his son and daughter, Lee and Victoria. He was called "Grammar," because he taught grammar schools. In the days after the Civil War, when public schools were few and short, there were many private schools; and he went through the county, organizing and teaching grammar schools. He taught that subject and no other, just as others taught writing and singing schools. He was a paralytic with one helpless arm, and as ugly and uncouth in every way as anyone could be; but he did speak and teach correct English, which was greatly needed in that day. His son, Lee, was a half-wit that had fits at every public gathering, and scared nervous women and girls into hysterics. Victoria had good sense, but was the most homely person in the world. She was stumpy and fat, and had large hanging moles all over her face, which wags called Vic's peaches; yet, notwithstanding her looks, she often stated that she had had "thirteen chances to be married to *men*," not to speak of boys and women, and, strange to say, she finally did marry a widower.

BLOSS LUNA

Bloss Luna is the next unknown celebrity, which I would have you know. I select him out of the numberless Lunas of the section more as a representative of the family and his occupation than for any individual reasons. I have often said, if I had not been a Cowden I would like to have been a Luna, because no people had less than the Cowdens and felt better. My father did their practice, and they were often in our home. They were a free, witty, happy, carefree tribe that had little without wanting more, and were always ready to share their little with all. Bloss had less than any of them, and felt better. He spent much of his time around the country store, wise-cracking and exchanging repartee with the other wits of the community; and no vaudeville offered better entertainment. When time came to go home, he would usually arise and say, "Well, I believe I will 'parse' around awhile, then go home." He made his living swapping horses, and Saturdays and first Mondays always found him on the jockey ground. His jovial, amiable banter to trade was his great asset and stock-in-trade; and the maneuvering of his horse and his witticisms in general made him an irresistible salesman and trader. On one occasion he came on the jockey ground riding a very fine mule, and he was at once bantered by many for a trade; but he said to them, "You wouldn't swap for this mule; she has fits." They all laughed at him and insisted on a proposition to trade. And again he said, "I tell you this mule has fits;" but they paid no attention to what they considered his foolishness, and demanded a proposition to trade, which was made and accepted, greatly to his profit, and no sooner made and accepted than the mule fell in a fit; but, according to the ethics of the yard, the trade had to stand. The horse jockey of the past generation in the day of the horse and buggy was a smooth citizen. While he was not a high-powered salesman

and tradesman such as we have today, yet he was smooth, skilful and efficient; and I doubt whether the world has produced a more capable tradesman than the horse-swapper of that day. He traded on small capital and less margins, yet managed to clear enough in the long run to keep soul and body together. Such were Bloss Luna and many of his horse-swapping contemporaries, who met regularly on the jockey grounds of the country in their battle of wits.

MR. BOBO

I wish to introduce next a very different type of man, Mr. Bobo. He was a Southern gentleman of the old school, large in body, handsome in face, courtly and gracious in manners, and amiable and cordial in all company. Like the Southern gentleman of that day, he didn't take to work much; but finally having to make a living, he traveled through the country with horse and buggy, selling novelties such as hand organs and those things that the country stores did not carry. All ages of people liked him, but to the children he was a fairy godfather. He would tell them the most marvelous stories, and paint their future with rainbows of childish hope and promise. For instance, he took me on his knee, when I was a small boy, and told me, if I would go with him to Baltimore, he would give me the prettiest red buggy, pulled by two billy goats in fine livery. The way he could describe that buggy and goats lifted me into the third heaven, from which I did not descend for months.

BRO. BRADLEY

My father's home was the preacher's home whenever he passed that way, or sojourned in the community for a "protracted meeting." There was no "prophet's chamber" in our home, but there was always a room and a welcome for the preacher. Of all those holy messengers who came with their blessings and departed with our gratitude, and therefore deserve earth's as well as heaven's greatest reward, there was just one, Brother Bradley, who could be classed as a "character." Although he was a forceful and effective preacher, he did not rank as high as a preacher as some others that ministered in the community; but he was "different" from all of them, and left his unique impression on all who knew him; but I hesitate to undertake to make him known to those who did not see and hear him, because he must be seen to be known; and besides, he was such a paradoxical mixture of the serious and the ridiculous that a true portrayal of him borders on the sacrilegious and the offense of those that loved him, of whom I am one. What is written of him here is written, however, with deep reverence and great respect for Brother Bradley.

Before becoming a preacher, while I do not know it to be true, it is said of him that he was a showman,—a clown in a circus. He had all the marks of a clown, such as a slow droll speech, funny facial grimaces, comic, eccentric actions, etc. Not that he intended these to be such, nor in any way tried to be funny and amusing, because he was intensely serious in everything that he said and did,—in fact, he was not even conscious of being amusing. His clownish behaviour was entirely natural with him,—the mere overflowing of his real self or of his old life as a showman which could not be suppressed; and herein lay the unique interest of the man. To meet with a holy clown in the sanctuary of God was something new under the heavens.

It was told of him that sometimes on entering the church he would turn handsprings down the aisle to the pulpit; however, I do not know this to be true;

but, if he did, he was always serious and solemn when he reached the pulpit. Notwithstanding the funny grimaces of his countenance and comic contortions of his body, which aroused the risibility of all present, he was reverential and devoted. You wanted to laugh at him, but you were afraid to do so in the House of God, so you sat ready to explode and wishing that you were out at the barn, where you could give full and free expression to your feelings. He was even more amusing out of the pulpit than in it; yet, because of his seriousness, you never felt free to laugh as much as you wished, for fear of offending him. To illustrate, he was dining with a serious and meticulous family, and during the meal, desiring some of his favorite sweet, he said to the hostess, "Sister Hettie, did you forget to set the honey on the table?" And she had to acknowledge that she did not have any honey, while all at the table either shrank down with embarrassment or swelled up with humor; but neither was able to give expression to their feelings. Again, on another occasion, while he was a widower and was beginning to take notice of attractive widows in the churches, he was taking a meal at an eligible widow's house, on whom he wished to make a good impression, so he said to her at the table, "Sister Lula, there is nothing false about me except my teeth (grinning and grimacing to show his brand new set of white, shiny store teeth), and they fit like new shoes. I am true, because I want to go to heaven, and I want to go mighty bad;" but no one could afford to laugh at his teeth or his wanting to go to heaven. Soon after the death of his wife he was telling me of her passing as follows: "She was a little puny, but able to be up; however, unable to eat anything, so I made her a pot of coffee and set it in the chair beside her; and all of a sudden she fell over with a paralytic stroke, knocking the coffee over on the floor. I grabbed the pot as quick as I could, but I only saved a half cup of the coffee." It was too serious to laugh then, but I have had to laugh several times over it since. Again, he was talking to me and another young preacher on the street, and this young preacher was explaining to him why he had not been out to the meeting, saying, "You know we had a new baby at our house the other night." Brother Bradley slyly looked at him and answered, "Andy, did you do all that by yourself?"

He had to have a rather serious operation, and since he had no money to pay hospital expenses, my brother, Dr. Cowden, took him into his home and operated on him. While he was recovering, the doctor's little girl looked at him and said, sorrowfully, "Brother Bradley, you are going to die." "Honey, did your pappy tell you that?" She answered, "No; I just thought so from the way you look and the faces that you make." He said to the doctor when he came in, "Doctor, if that child had said yes to my question, I would have just turned over and died." But perhaps his most comic story was his narration of what to him was a neighborhood scandal. A preacher of a rival denomination, on returning from church one night, was seen to embrace one of the sisters, which spread like wildfire throughout the community, and all tongues buzzed behind closed doors; however, Brother Bradley's report of this serious yet ridiculous sin would have made the angels of heaven laugh. After a comic delineation of all the details and circumstances, he concluded his report of the scandal thus: "Dr. Cowden, he actually hugged her." He did not intend to be funny or amusing, but serious and solemn always; however, the comic and ridiculous radiated from him as rays from a burning light, which often led his hearers to explode with laughter under most serious occasions, even in the House of God; but, if anyone reaches heaven, where Brother Bradley said he wanted to go

mighty bad, I am sure that he will be there; however, he may disrupt the seriousness and solemnity of the place by some of his antics and narrations.

FAMILY NEGROES

We now come to the negroes of the family, and out of the great number that were in the home, first and last, I have selected three, namely: Aunt Nancy, Eli Woodard and Jim Buck Jones, representatives of the three classes of negroes that have been in the family. Aunt Nancy was my mother's old black mammy. She was brought as a slave from Virginia when my grandfather, Dr. Griffith Leonard, emigrated to Tennessee in 1806 with the other members of the family and their slaves. She was then married to Uncle Tom, another slave of the family, and was doubtless born about 1780-85, since she was over one hundred when she died, about 1886-87. My grandfather was a bachelor when he came to Tennessee, and remained unmarried until he was fifty years of age, when he married Nancy Emmett Porter, a young girl of eighteen, who lived on an adjoining farm. My mother was the first of nine children born of this union; and with an old bachelor for a father and a young girl for a mother, she fell naturally into the hands of Aunt Nancy, the black nurse, who was more experienced. Other children came in quick succession; and, since Uncle Tom and Aunt Nancy had no living children of their own, my mother was taken into their cabin, which stood at the back of the smokehouse about fifty feet, and kept there night and day until she was a large girl. She ever afterwards looked upon this cabin as one of her homes; and they loved her with an affection beyond all understanding today. Uncle Tom was the cotton-ginner and wool-carder and spinner, a necessary worker on every plantation in that day, when most all clothing was produced and made at home; and Aunt Nancy was one of the house servants. When the slaves were freed by Lincoln's emancipation proclamation they did not leave the family, but remained until the division of the Leonard estate and financial conditions following the war forced them away. After Uncle Tom's death Aunt Nancy came to live and make her home with my mother. She was given a room in the house at the end of the dining-room, which she kept clean and spotless; however, from my earliest recollection of her, she was too old to do any work. On winter nights we children would gather around her large fireplace and listen to her thrilling pioneer slaveday stories, among which were the journey from Virginia, the falling of the stars, the wedding of Marse Griff, the stampede of horses and mules when the Yankee soldiers tried to catch them to take them away, ghost stories, etc. She had all the superstitions of the before-the-war negro, which she scrupulously observed, and many of which she imparted to my mother. I recall, when I was a small boy, often leading my mother to a clear place in the yard, where she could see the new moon clear, for good luck that month, and then she would go back and lead Aunt Nancy to the same place, where she looked through her age-dimmed eyes upon the golden crescent of promise, and thanked the Lord, and I confess to this day I myself do not enjoy seeing the new moon through brush. Aunt Nancy had a sign and a cure for every evil spirit. She wore brass rings on her fingers to keep off the witches, to which she attributed the rheumatism in her hands. She was too old to do any of the housework or cooking; but there were two items in the culinary department that she always insisted on doing: the cooking of the ashcake and the barbecuing of the game. She made the corn-meal pone, and opening the redhot ashes, she would drop it in and cover it up;

and she knew just when to take it out. Better bread has never been baked. I can taste that smoking bread with its pure, pungent ash-lye taste yet. In barbecuing rabbits and other game she hung them on a large iron crane before the fire, over a large pan in which she had a pungent savory basting sauce, the formula for which passed away with her. As she basted the game, and watched over its cooking, she would tell of thus barbecuing wild turkey, deer and bear, which were plentiful in Tennessee when her white folks settled here. When she took the barbecued meat down and placed it on the table, brown as a berry and dripping with gravy, it was a feast for a king, and heaven for a hungry boy like me. When she died I never knew my mother more grieved. As she knelt by the bed in tears and great sorrow, I did not understand her grief then; but now, knowing better the meaning and place of the black mammies of the Old South, I understand. Their unselfish devotion and faithful loyalty call for the highest praise and appreciation; and they deserve a higher and more enduring tribute and monument than I can bestow upon them here. When Aunt Nancy was dead, and her things in boxes looked into, there was found a bag containing her burial treasure, consisting of many old cankered coins, which she had kept against that day. She and her like were a part of the glory of the Old South.

Eli Woodard was of the ambitious, educated class of negroes. My father reared two negro boys, Eli Woodard and Wm. Smiley, who became distinguished negro educators. Eli, the most brilliant of the two, who was said to have the blood of a United States senator, of whom Daniel Webster said there was no greater living orator, grew up in the family, and was taught his letters and how to read by my older brother, Dr. C. N. Cowden; and, after finishing the county negro school, he came to Nashville and entered Fisk University, from which he graduated with high honors. He was a fine looking man, dressed elegantly, and yet withal was humble and devoted to his friends and race. Unfortunately, he died in early manhood of tuberculosis; otherwise, he would have reached great fame and fortune in his race.

Jim Buck was just a natural typical negro who wanted nothing except something to eat and wear, now and then some whiskey to drink, and Saturday off to enjoy life among the other negroes. He was a good-looking, brown-skin negro, who took pride in his appearance, wearing his hair braided in several plaits upon his shoulders. He was a banjo player, singer and dancer. He was never too tired after the day's work that he did not play his banjo in front of his cabin for a half hour or more, and sing the negro songs and spirituals. He was an artist on the banjo, had a beautiful voice, and was the finest negro dancer that I have seen. These accomplishments, added to his loving sentimental ways, made him a social lion among the ladies. Although he had a wife and large family, he did not allow them to interfere with his social life. He played and sang and danced and romanced his way through life. His philosophy of life was, "I'm goin' to live anyway 'til I die;" and so he did.

THE SERENADERS

I cannot close this sketch without a brief reference to the serenaders of the community, namely: Jim Thomas and Bob Holland (violins), Wiley Yowell (French harp and guitar) and Charlie Cowden (guitar), who contributed much to the pleasure of the community. They were skilled and artistic musicians, and in those days, when the people heard little music and were hungry for it, their music was a feast of melody that was greatly appreciated by all. We cannot get

away from music today. It pursues us on the radio, phonograph, orchestras, picture shows, vaudeville, opera, etc., *ad nauseam*; but not so in those days. It was an occasional breath and quaff from the land of melody that thrilled the soul. It was heard only at special social functions and state occasions, and on serenades. No one knew of their coming and presence until they began to tune their instruments on the front porch. At once my mother arose, went to every bed, and awoke the sleepers. To hear that divine music floating up through the stillness of the night, when you were half asleep and half awake, like a beautiful, realistic dream, was the purest and greatest happiness that I have ever known. Heaven itself can hold no higher rapture for the soul. The instrumental music was interspersed with songs, one of which, sung by Wiley Yowell, "The Old Ark," is never heard today. The reason is, I suppose, no one today has a big enough mouth and fast enough tongue to sing it. It certainly was a mouthful, and required a speedy tongue to render it. During the serenade some member of the family arose and passed out refreshments of whatever delicacies in food and drink that happened to be on hand; and frequently through the grapevine telephone the coming of the serenaders was found out, and the refreshments were prepared beforehand. One time, when they reached Grannie Leonard's late in the night, Uncle Bud, who was then a bachelor, not knowing that there were some ladies among the serenaders, came out in the bright moonshine with the refreshments, clad only in his scanty night robes. When he saw the ladies he broke to run, fell over a chair, and spilled all the good things. He was still running the last they heard of him. May joy and peace be the eternal reward of the old time serenaders, because they gave such to the mortals of earth.

In conclusion, time and space forbid my writing of many other interesting characters that sojourned in the Cowden home, such as Dink Luna, an old-time fiddler, Dunk Barret, the giant, Helen Brooks, an indescribable character, Mr. Delk, the German scholar and vine-dresser, and many others about whom another chapter could be written.



JUNE 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

